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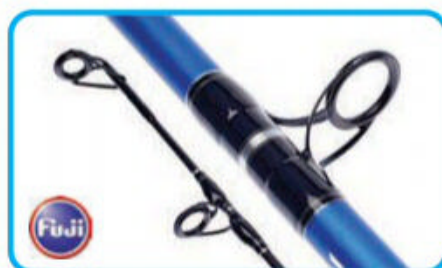
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V - Joint

WELCOME

ISSUE 597

JUNE 2021

MANY OF YOU WILL know that Ian Golds (right), one of Britain's best match anglers and the producer of a range of superb items of tackle, passed away after a long battle with cancer.

Goldsy, who lived in Hampshire, approached his mortality with a mixture of fortitude and an unfailing sense of humour. A proud Englishman, who had represented his country in shore match fishing on many occasions, it was fitting that his death was announced on St George's Day.

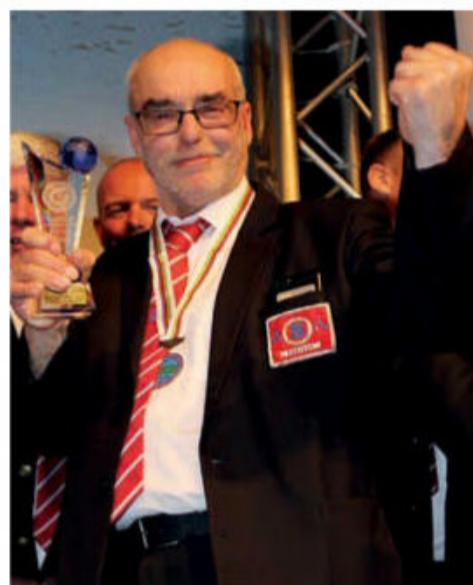
Some things in sea angling really stick in your mind and, for me, one particular day with Ian certainly stands out. I can picture him now using a plastic bottle as a float and hauling out wrasse on his way to victory in the 2001 Penn Sea League final at Portland Breakwater. His logic was that he'd lose fewer wrasse because they would struggle to pull the bottle under fast enough to reach any cover. He then won the annual league in the same year.

Ian often played the joker but he was the ace when it came to fishing skills. I'm told that in the 1970s he'd turn up at matches on his motorbike. He became a respected stalwart of the southern match circuit, and a man you'd want in your team. For many years, his Solent Raiders dominated South Coast league events. His England career as a competitor started in 1989 and resulted in 12 World Championship medals, before he added two more as team manager. When the results of the 2018 World Championships, held in Wales, were announced and England won the silver medal, the admiration from his team and those present was truly heartfelt.

Not only was he a superb angler, but also, since the 1980s, he ran his tackle business known for its rod tripods and the popular Igloo beach shelter. Many of you followed Ian's social media to read what he called his ramblings, those incisive and witty comments covering his health, life in general and his attempts at the noble art of 'fish bothering'.

Moves are afoot to rename the SAMF Masters in his honour.

As time ran out, Ian, who was 62, began selling off his fishing gear to raise money for the junior, youth



and ladies' teams of the four home nations. Typical of his humour, he called it his 'Kick the Bucket Twenty Grand Challenge'.

Ian, who lived in Bedhampton, had two children – Christopher and Becky – from his second marriage to Barbara. He married Angela Moore (his "good lady") in recent years. His funeral took place on May 18.

He will be missed. In our next issue (July), our contributor and Ian's friend Chris Clark will write about their last fishing trip together.

JOIN THE FIGHT

What seems only a short time since safety and security concerns forced the closure of the Peterhead breakwaters for sea angling, the same fate faces Dover's famous Admiralty Pier. Dover Sea Angling Association, which has held events at the facility since 1903, and the Angling Trust are trying to persuade the harbour board not to make the closure permanent.

Please support this important fight and sign the online petition at www.change.org/p/local-government-dover-reopen-the-admiralty-pier-dover?source_location=topic_page

On what many see as a positive note, the green light has been given for the Bluefin 'CHART' programme for England for this autumn, which will see up to 15 authorised charter boats in the South and South West taking out paying anglers between August 16 and November 14 to catch, tag and release bluefin tuna.

Enjoy this issue of Sea Angler and please consider taking out a subscription – details on page 94.

Cliff Brown, Editor

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SAVE 22%
AND GET A DOUBLE
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COVER YOUR BASS OPTIONS

You've got the rod and reel, but other items along with lures or bait really determine success or a dismal blank

I SAW THIS FISHING PRAYER SOMEWHERE: "When I die, please don't let my partner sell my tackle for less than three times more than what I said it cost." Fair enough, a lot of anglers view their credit card limits as challenges: "Mastercard's raised me to two thousand quid, let's see how quickly I can spend that lot."

Rods or reels, there is always something exciting to buy. Most of my tackle falls between cheap and mid-priced. I scramble to marks that ought to be off limits to an uncoordinated stumblebum with arthritic knees, so the last thing I need is to damage expensive gear every time I fall on my bottom.

But if you take care of your stuff, and if it gives you pleasure to fish with something beautifully engineered and built, I see no reason not to buy the best your budget will stand. However, if

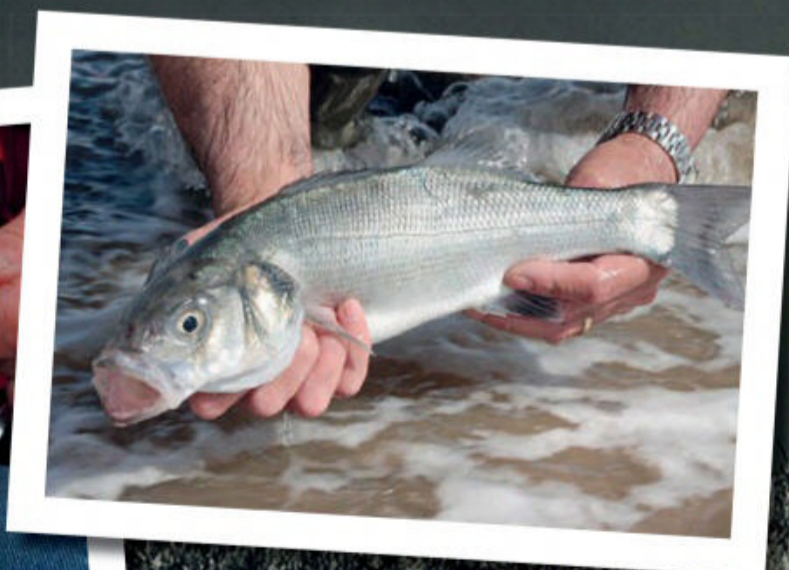
you're clumsy, tight-fisted or skint, adjust your sights accordingly.

My focus isn't on the big ticket items anyway, it's on the cheaper and less visible bits and bobs that often make the difference between a successful session and a blank. Mostly that difference is down to giving yourself more options as to how you fish.

I'll start with a relatively costly item, braid. Most lure fans use it – including me – but I love it also for fishing with bait in the surf. I don't care that it's easy to cast with, generally I chuck my beach gear less than 40 yards.

Where it helps is with drag. In a howling wind monofilament's hauled hither and yon, and whipped around like a kite-surfer being chased by a great white shark. The thinner diameter of

braid means I can stay in touch with my lead weight, and use a lighter one than I'd need if I had a spinnaker of mono yanking it about. Even better, I can stay in touch with my lack of weight. In calm weather I like to freeline a whole squid or a mackerel, letting it drift along in whatever current I can find. The limpness and low stretch of braid is perfect for that detail. I can feel my bait trickling across the sand until – with luck – it stops trickling as a fat bass grabs hold.



Many anglers are using braid



RIGHT: Bags come in all shapes and sizes, but don't feel tempted to fill them to the brim

BE SELECTIVE

Moving on to the stuff we **cart** around in our lure bags, you might think nobody needs **help** buying even more artificials. **I run** into people with boxes like **picnic** hampers for Desperate Dan, with more than enough room for a cow pie, and yet the containers are full. Others are minimalists, with a small selection of lures.

Even when anglers fall in love with just a few patterns, some buy them in every colour scheme available. They're like restaurants that specialise in hamburgers. You can have your burger topped with blue cheese, pulled pork, barbecue sauce, maple bacon, tofu, or mango and kumquat marmalade. But if you fancy chicken wings or a pizza you're out of luck. Yet bass can be selective feeders, homing in on a single prey species almost to the exclusion of anything else.

When they're stuffing themselves with two-inch whitebait, or even tinier jelly-fry or weed maggots, they can be hard to interest in a big plug. My rock-hopping bag – I don't really hop, more like scramble and lurch – has things to suggest these tiny mouthfuls. A 20g Toby does the job when the whitebait are around, while maggots or mini-fry are best imitated by tying a little fly on to a dropper and fishing it in front of something else. If you don't tie flies, a baby sabiki, size 6 or so, looks pretty much like a jelly-fry as well.

The only caution is that you should fish them one at a time. A lad who saw me catching bass

on a silvery tinsel effort decided to have a bash with a leash of five mini-feathers. Beaching four 2lb fish at the same time isn't easy, and the poor chap snapped the tip of his rod as he tried to slide them through the wave.

WEATHER BEATERS

The other cheap blank-busters in my lure collection come into their own when the weather plays up. If it's as flat as a dab I never do much good with plugs, spoons or shads. In glassy water they seem too loud and obvious, like Elvis impersonators gate-crashing a state funeral. But an unweighted soft plastic is more subtle, so I fish it with more confidence.

Many people will tell you that confidence is a major ingredient of success. If you suspect you're fishing like a prize plonker this creates a self-fulfilling prophecy and you fish like one. But if you reckon you're doing a pretty good job, often the bass seem to be affected by your optimism.

Really rough seas call for different artificials as well. When giant swells are crashing in I steer clear of rock marks. A couple of friends are helicopter rescue crewmen, their stories would make my hair curl but for the fact that I'm bald. So in stormy weather my lure-fishing's from safe, flat beaches. There you need something that flies aerodynamically, even into a howler.

I go with thin metal jigs in the 30g to 50g range. Bounced along the bottom in a foamy surf-table, they attract bass quite well. To avoid snagging the bottom I remove the treble hooks and replace them with singles.

One wild October morning I met a holidaymaker on my local beach. Except at high water, it's very gently shelved, ideal in hairy conditions, as long as you stand sensibly far back from the water to allow for the occasional monster swell. I was chucking my jig 30 or 40 yards into the gale and fishing it through the froth. There were a few bass to be had. ►



Flies are good for imitating fry



When your plugs and shads seem splashy and crude, use a weightless soft plastic. When it's too rough to fish from the rocks try a skinny metal jig from a beach



Carry some backup baits, such as razor clams which are a good choice after a storm

I never feel the need to cast further than I'm able and I reckon a lot of anglers put too much emphasis on the mighty fling, but this visitor really needed a bit more distance. Bass feed close in, but I've never caught one on dry land, and his popping plug was hardly getting wet. He'd hurl it at the horizon, then a gust would stop it in its tracks and swipe it back on to the sand. I suggested he tried a metal lure, but he didn't have one. Out came one of my spares, a 40g blue and silver number, and he was in business. We didn't have any trophy fish, but we had a fair few up to about 3lb, and a lot of very fresh air.

PLAIN SAILING

Back to bait, and as with lures I find some anglers box themselves into specific approaches. I run into people equipped with a supply of what they call beach-fishing weights, four or six ounce efforts with wires to grab the bottom.

I use grip leads myself, but only if it's so rough that I've no choice.

In a moderate wave, up to four or five feet, I'd as soon use a wired sinker as eat a Cornish pasty made in Crediton or Caracas. Most beaches have uneven sea floors, ridges and channels, flat areas and potholes. As things wash around they find their way into the depressions in the sand, and that's where bass seem to go hunting for their food. Therefore I like my bait to move through the surf, from channel to channel, pothole to pothole.

That requires a bomb weight, one that's not quite big enough to hold bottom. My fishing jacket is a storeroom, containing bombs in all sizes from one to four ounces, so I can adjust the weight used to suit changing conditions.

Of course, a moving rig means you can't rest your rod. You have to keep it in your hand to stay in touch. But your rod really doesn't need a rest when it's on the shore, it'll have plenty of time to relax when you drive home, give it its shower, and put it to bed in the shed.



The fly on the top left suggests a small sandeel, below it are whitebait patterns. The flies are smaller (size 6) and used to imitate jelly-fry



Fish with a rolling weight to search the seabed

SPARE BAIT

There's one more thing that can make the difference between a blank and a bonanza – spare bait. As when I'm lure fishing, I find bass on the beaches are fixated feeders. They change their diet as different sources of calories drift into their browsing spots, and you never can be sure what's going to tickle their fancies.

For instance, in summer and early autumn I do best with mackerel, but once the day-boats start jigging for squid the bass want the calamari special from the seasonal menu. When gales smash up the sand and the rocks, they can prefer the mussels and razor clams dislodged by the hoolies.

The problem is that you don't know from one day to the next what's going to work; so it makes sense to be flexible. I take the bait I expect to be fishing, and one or two other choices from the deep freezer. If you like to smell fresh and hygienic you can freeze small portions



If there are mussels under your feet, try them as bait

in sealable containers. And if, like me, you're resigned to a permanent aroma of stale marine life, just shove them in a bag in your pocket.

Squid, mussels and razor clam are ideal back-ups, even when they thaw out a bit you can re-freeze them without making them any less attractive. Whatever bait you use the important thing is to have a Plan B.

One September morning I was on a wild, exposed beach at about three o'clock. The mackerel were running like Usain Bolt, the

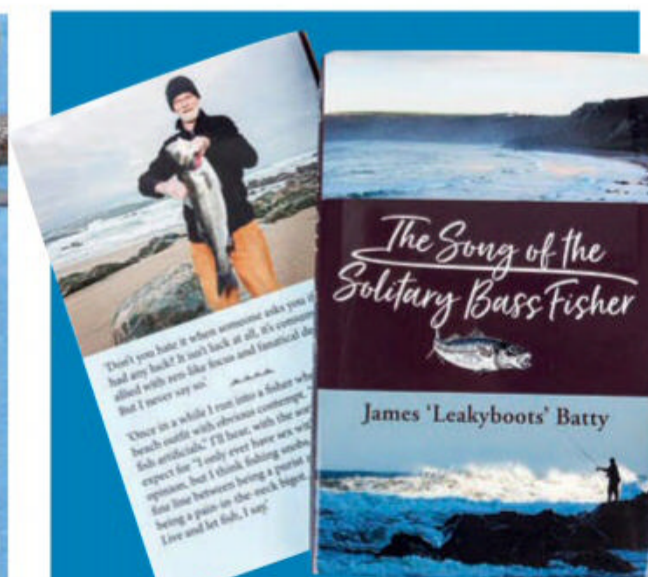
price on Newlyn market was next to nothing, so I started with a whole joey. One hour, three moves, one weever. Okay, it was a big weever, but I really don't like weevers one bit. As I wandered along the sand I noticed a crunchy sound under my boots. On with the torch, there were mussel shells everywhere. And glory be, I had a bag of squid and some frozen mussels in my jacket. I thawed the mussels, lashed three or four on to my hook with elastic, and had three bass in an hour, the best just under 7lb.

On the way back to the car I ran into two local boys. They were fishing with lugworms and all they'd caught were baby flounders. I gave them my last dozen mussels, and while I was still helping the younger lad to tie them on to his hook the older boy missed a thumping bite. Then baby brother beached a four-pounder.

More choices mean more bass, and they needn't cost a packet. You can top up your kitbag, give yourself a few extra options, and still splash out on that new rod or reel you fancy. ■



Squid could be your Plan B bait



James Batty's book 'The Song of the Solitary Bass Fisher' (£14.99) is available from Merlin Unwin Books Ltd, Ludlow, Shropshire, tel: 01584 877456.



This stinger was
missing its tail

TECHNIQUES FROM EUROPE •
**OVER
THE
WATER** •
TECHNIQUES FROM EUROPE

BANKING ON STINGRAYS

Warm weather signals the arrival
of these powerful fish. Are you
ready to take on this challenge?

O PINIONS DIFFER ABOUT whether or not stingrays hibernate in our coastal waters, but the fact is they like warmth so it comes as no surprise that the best months to catch them are June, July and August.

They can be caught on sandbanks that dry out at low tide or retain a minimal depth of water. When the water finds its way back to the sun-warmed areas at high tide, these rays will forage here for food. When the water ebbs they will leave the bank, probably waiting in the deeper waters for the next tide. It is a valid theory because boat anglers tend to catch them in deeper water. Where a sandbank holds a minimum of three metres of water, the rays can stay there regardless of the tide.

There are some drawbacks to fishing such banks. Firstly, you only have a limited window of opportunity to fish because there will only be enough water for a few hours. Secondly, you are very dependent on the time of day and the moon phase. A spring tide is the best.

What I look for here in Holland is a large sandbank holding a minimum of two metres of water at low tide. This is when it's handy to have a detailed sea chart. Using the I-boating app, I can measure exactly how far I need to cast to reach a chosen sandbank. With a firm cast this can be fished from the shore without any problem.

In England, I know stingrays are caught, for instance, on parts of the Essex coast, the Solent shoreline and Dorset to name a few, with the size



King ragworms are the favourite choice

of fish ranging from under 10lb up to the British shore-caught record of 78lb 8oz, taken in 2015 at Chesil Beach, Dorset. For any new mark, I give it four attempts to prove itself. This is twice during the ebb and twice on the flood. Only then will I get a good idea of the possibilities. When seeking out less common species or larger fish, I don't mind the occasional blank because I enjoy a bit of all-or-nothing fishing.

BAIT SELECTION

Once I've selected the venue, it's time to concentrate on the bait selection. Large ragworms are often used, but strips of fresh mackerel and/or squid seem to work too.

It's certainly worth including mackerel and squid in your cool bag. Last year I tried all three of these baits and it did not take long before concluding that stingrays absolutely love large ragworms. If you want to fish for bigger rays, then the best thing to do is use a strip of mackerel or squid in combination with a ragworm, and secure it together using bait elastic. The big advantage of mackerel and squid is that you can freeze these, so that you can have some in stock. Fresh is better, but certainly not a necessity.

Usually stingrays will be buried into the seabed waiting until they can ambush fish, crustaceans or invertebrates. When the tide is good they actively search for food, meaning you need to fish your bait as tight to the seabed as possible to catch this bottom dweller.

BEST RIGS

I have found several rigs work well for catching stingrays, but first I should emphasise that our marks are often littered with oysters, mussels or rock formations and that is why I always tie vandalism-proof rigs. That's why my rig body lines are 0.80mm fluorocarbon with the hooklengths being 0.60mm. This may sound like overkill but trust me it is necessary. The strength of these lines is over the top, but these thicknesses are meant to prevent abrasion. The first rig is easy to set up, being a long flowing ▶



The big ragworm bait fitted on a Splashdown clip

trace at the bottom on a Tronixpro Urfe clip and a wire boom higher up the rig body. The lower hooklength is 130cm long and made with 0.60mm fluorocarbon. This has a Gamakatsu SC15 size 2 hook, which I like when the fish has room to move before it feels the hook. The boom has a shorter hooklength. You will be able to cast further with this rig, which works well when there is a weak or moderate flow.

My second rig is my favourite. In England this is called the pulley rig, but here we call it the yo-yo. It is undervalued in Holland, which is a shame because it catches many types of fish.

The 110cm long rig body is fitted with a Splashdown clip to allow distance casting. On the rig body, add a bead, swivel and another bead. At the top tie another swivel. The loose swivel will be attached to your shockleader. The

fixed swivel holds a 100cm hooklength and two SC15 hook in a Pennell. Make sure that your hooklength is 10cm shorter than the body to enable you to clip the hook tightly for casting.

The main advantage of the pulley/yo-yo is that it can be cast big distances and the bait lands on the bottom without any damage. Even with a strong current this rig will function well.

BAITING & WAITING

I am a big fan of using a lot of bait on the hook because it will produce more fish. Tie four large ragworms together before attaching them to the hook. The best way to do this is by threading a large ragworm on a bait needle. Position another three next to it and tie these together into a compact bundle, which can be attached easily

to the hook. My second hook of the Pennell is a Cox & Rawle Mutsu Circle in size 1/0. This slides on the hooklength and is secured one centimetre above the bait by winding the line three times around the hook shank before sticking the hook the ragworm bundle.

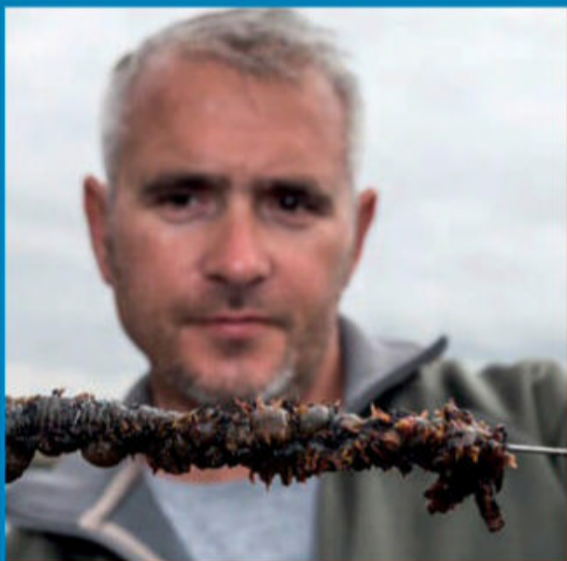
This is not only an interesting looking bait but also will give off more smell. Being secured with bait elastic it can resist the attention of shrimps, crabs and small fish. A ray will mess about with your bait, which registers as slight taps on your rod tip. Quite often the fish will be hooked by then. It will swim towards you and your line will go limp, or it will swim away from you and the tip will bend. Keep your rod high, reel your line in quickly until you feel that you have made contact with the ray and then set the hook.



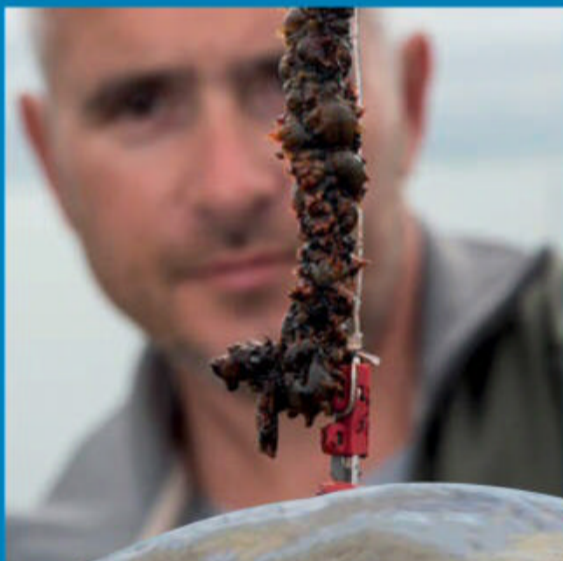
Slide one ragworm on the baiting needle



Secure three more alongside with elastic



The bait ready to go on the hook



SAFE LANDING

If you search the internet for stingrays you may be confronted by the story of Steve Irwin and proof of the danger posed by this fish. Steve was killed by a hard thrust of the ray's tail into his heart. Yes, that ray was more than 2.5 metres long, but regardless of the size, you must avoid getting stabbed by the spike on its tail.

The jagged spike is connected to poison glands. The spine will inflict enormous pain. I know anglers who could feel the pain 10 hours later. There is also a good chance of inflammation so

a visit to the hospital is absolutely necessary. However, all is not lost because if you prepare well you can reduce any chance of being stabbed by the ray's tail spike. You must eliminate almost all risks. The main rule is to never fish for stingrays on your own.

With two people you can easily and safely win the battle. A large landing net is essential, preferably a coated pan-net. Do not drag these beautiful rays over the ground because you will damage the fish, especially over stones that heat up in the summer sunshine. For this reason, ▶

Support the underside of the ray and wrap the spike in a piece of towel

THE WRITER

Since 2008, Martijn Dekkers, 42, has written for European angling magazines using photographic support from his friend Bram Bokkers. In 2015 he started a sport fishing company, Dutch Fishing Stuff, providing workshops for shore and boat angling. Away from angling he runs his own painting business.

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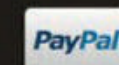
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I always use an unhooking mat. You can place the mat in a position where you can handle the fish more easily.

A strip from a thick towel will suffice to protect you from its spike. Wrap it tightly from top to bottom over the spike. Then take hold of it firmly and do not let go until you release the ray back into the water. The person holding the spike then lifts the ray carefully, only lifting it from the snout to its mouth. The other person removes the hook with flat-nose pliers. Never throw the ray on its back. If the hook was swallowed too deep, cut the line as closely as possible to the hook.

After taking your photograph, be sure to carefully release the ray back into the water. The bit of towel can be taken off at this point. Do not pull the towel because there is a danger of it becoming stuck on the spike. Giving the towel a bit of a shake is usually the best way to remove it. Most of time the ray will remain still, as long as it is submerged it will swim off eventually. You do not have to shove it off. ■



ABOUT THE STINGRAY

Flatfish is a term often bestowed on the stingray, but it is incorrect because all rays belong to the genus of sharks and rays (Elasmobranchii) and form a subclass of cartilaginous fish (Chondrichthyes).

Cartilaginous fish form a group of free-swimming vertebrates, of which their skeleton consists of cartilage. In this respect they differ from nearly all species of fish, which are ray-finned.

The stingray has a flattened and kite-shaped body. Being a bottom-feeder, its nostrils, gills and mouth are all located on the underside, which is bright white with a distinct dark edge. The blow holes and eyes are on top of the fish, which, depending on the bottom types it lives on, ranges from grey/brown to olive green.

The tail of the stingray is quite long, one and a half times its body length. Three-quarters of the way along the tail there is a spike, which is used for defence and which is poisonous. The spike has such a reach that it can defend its entire body. Wherever you touch the ray, you will always be within striking distance of its spike and the fish will definitely trash it around. As its spine continues for a third into the tail, the ray is capable of really delivering strong blows. If you are hit by it you will be hit hard, so never underestimate that spike.



Return the stingray to the water, unwrap the towel and watch the fish swim away



It's a good idea to use an unhooking mat



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NORTH NORFOLK SHINGLE BANK

A popular match venue, the area between Weybourne and Blakeney Point offers plenty of space to fish



THE SHINGLE BANK THAT STRETCHES east from Weybourne all the way to Blakeney Point in North Norfolk produces plenty of decent sport throughout the year. What is more you'll have plenty of space, which is one reason why it is a popular match venue.

Facing into the North Sea and west of The Wash, the area is split into several sections that include Weybourne, Kelling, Salhouse and Cley. During the summer the shingle can be very busy with anglers casting feathers in search of mackerel. May weed can be a problem here in early summer too. The horrid stuff clings to your mainline and often masks baited hooks. There will be whiting in the autumn and winter, along with a few cod.

Be warned, the area has plenty of seals. It

is not uncommon to hear stories of anglers having a fish ripped from the hook when reeling in, or worse, having their rod dragged from the tripod and pulled seawards, so be alert at all times.

SEASONAL SPECIES

The area is renowned for producing good bags of flounders and dabs. Once spring arrives, expect plenty of action with other species too, such as bass, smoothhounds, the occasional spotted or thornback ray, dogfish and whiting. Some anglers target garfish and black bream.

Those anglers who are prepared to trek over the energy-sapping shingle away from the popular spots are often rewarded with a big bass, especially during an onshore gale.

Smoothhounds feature on the Norfolk coast



Expect to catch plenty of flatfish



A match in progress on the shingle at Weybourne

TACTICS

Standard beach rods matched with either a fixed-spool or multiplier reel loaded with 15lb mainline and shockleader are used. Fish with two rods to optimise your chances by fishing close and further out.

A lure rod with a selection of hard and soft lures is worth packing, especially during calm and clear conditions.

Best results will always come when there is a tide run, either flood or ebb, and you can expect bites to dry up during slack water.

Calm conditions are perfect for targeting the flatties. If there is a decent amount of colour in the water, combined with a running tide, you can expect hectic sessions with double and treble shots. An onshore wind that produces a surf sees the bass feeding close in, with some fine specimens over 6lb not uncommon.

As the peeler crab moult gets underway, darkness heralds some fantastic smoothhound action with fish averaging 6-8lb, as well as the occasional double-figure fish.

Local anglers who tend to mix up their tactics often use bubble float rigs that sit just beneath the surface hoping to attract a garfish. In recent years more and more black bream are making an appearance to this tactic. Lure anglers tend to keep their catch reports secret when targeting bass. Walking the shingle and

whacking diving or surface poppers on an early morning or late evening tide generally produces better results. A quick scan to see where the sea birds are diving certainly gives the game away in terms of where the baitfish are shoaling. Not many anglers use livebait here for bass, but a joey mackerel slid down the line close to the shingle at high tide is without doubt worth the effort, especially for the larger specimens.

Two or three-hook flapper rigs armed with size 2 or 4 Aberdeen hooks are ideal for targeting dabs and flounders. Lugworms are the main bait, but by tipping off with a sliver of mackerel, squid or Bluey, you will find the bites coming a lot quicker. There's really no need for extreme distance casting and a decent chuck of around 60-70 yards will certainly put you among the fish.

Ragworms work for bass while a bunch of harbour rag (maddies) will see you connecting with a large flounder. Often these fish can be caught just a few feet from the edge, especially if you use a light, plain sinker and allow it to roll in the tide.

Peeler crabs are the top bait for hounds and bass, and local tackle shops nearly always have a decent supply, but it is worth a phone call to secure these in advance. ■



Codling can show up too

NEED TO KNOW

GETTING THERE

The A149 runs parallel with the shingle bank and there is plenty of parking available at Weybourne, Salthouse and Cley. Expect to

pay a small charge for parking and be aware that the beaches can be busy during the summer.



TACKLE SHOP

■ Rite Gear Angling Centre, 32 Cromer Road, West Runton, NR27 9AD, tel: 01263 838248.



MAKING MAGI



Learn the tricks to enjoy some exceptional smoothhound fishing at this rocky mark near Porthcawl

WITH THE SMOOTHHOUNDS now back inshore it reminds me how last summer was a particularly prolific season for this popular shark species in South Wales and how I was fortunate enough to be part of some amazing action.

My aim had been to beat my personal best as well as catching a big ray. One particular session at Newton Point, which is at Porthcawl, turned out to be one of the most memorable I may have in my life.

I'm normally lucky because the hounds turn up just when my college term ends and I can go straight to my caravan, which is a two-minute walk from Newton Point, and stay all summer for the full six weeks' holiday.



C AT NEWTON

This is a low tide mark, where you fish three hours before low water until two hours afterwards. Because the water rises fast, make sure you know the tide times otherwise you could get stranded quite quickly. It can be dangerous here because the rocks get very slippery and sometimes you can't see what's under your feet because the ground is quickly covered by shifting sand. Make sure you have a contact number to reach the Coastguard and try the What Three Words app.

Basically, it's a rocky mark with a few patches of sand, where the only rig worth recommending is a Pennell pulley with 60lb line straight through and size 2/0 hooks. A lot of anglers incorporate a rotten bottom when fishing here, but I don't because I'm familiar with the sand patches. However, any day can be different.

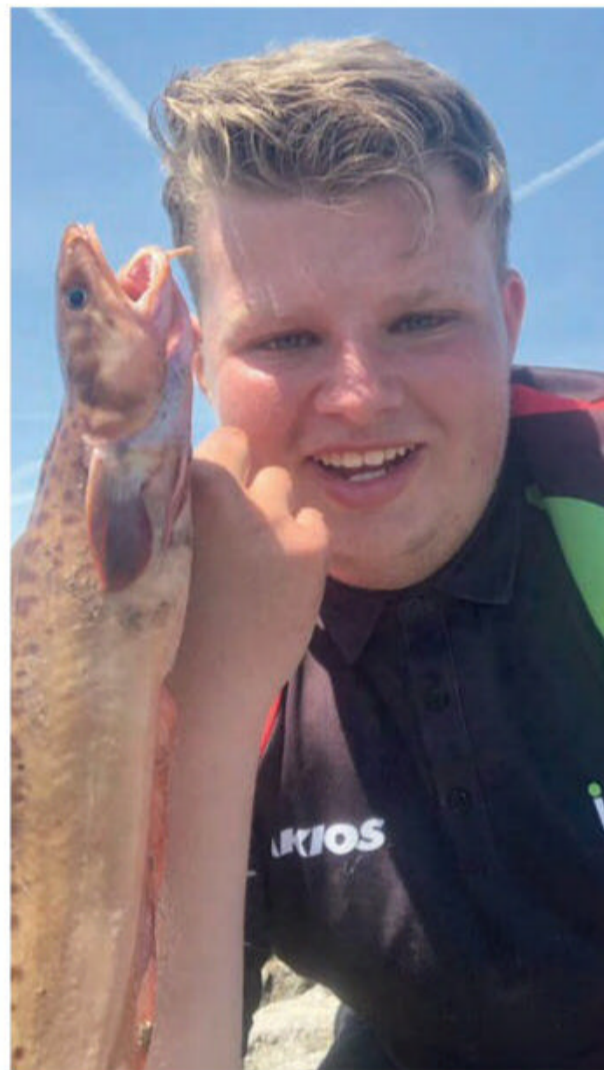
There was a crab shortage last year but I used small hardbacks mostly for the smoothhounds. For cod I use crabs, squid and black lug, while I like a longer rig (about 3ft 6in) with size 3/0 wide-gape hooks for the rays, which tend to rest over the rig. If your lead weight is too close to the bait it can spook the fish.

During the first hour on the mark, there is sometimes a big rip tide that will pull your lead weight across the ground. Use a six-ounce gripper for the first hour but you'll get away with a plain lead of five or six ounces for



Tom England's surprise summer codling...

the rest of the session. Always carry enough sinkers because this is a snaggy mark where you can lose a few weights, especially if your using rotten bottoms



...and a three-bearded rockling

SURPRISE START

My first fish last summer was a codling, which was a surprise for the time of year, even though winter is good for them at Newton. Next I landed my first hound, weighing 4lb (well below my personal best of 12lb 2oz), to get the ball rolling.

Soon I was fishing for hounds almost every day and catching fish into double figures. During one short session I took only a trio of Pennell pulley rigs with size 2/0 hooks, three lead weights and my last three crabs. My first cast went out and, as I started baiting a second rig, my reel screamed when what turned out to be a 7lb hound took off with my bait.

The second cast ended up snagging, so it was down to the last cast. I had a slack liner within two minutes of casting so I tightened my line as fast as I could and, thankfully, hooked into the fish which felt bigger than normal. Being on my own it was difficult to land the hard-fighting fish but eventually I managed to beach it on a small patch of sand. It was a monster, which took the scales to 14lb 4oz.

With a personal best in the bag I wasn't resting on my laurels and continued to fish Newton Point for the hounds. Along the way I met some amazing people and caught some incredible fish. I even bagged myself a new species, a three-bearded rockling. ▶

Crab baits produce plenty of species



Ieuan Griffiths and Gareth Griffiths enjoying some superb hound sport



AMAZING SESSIONS

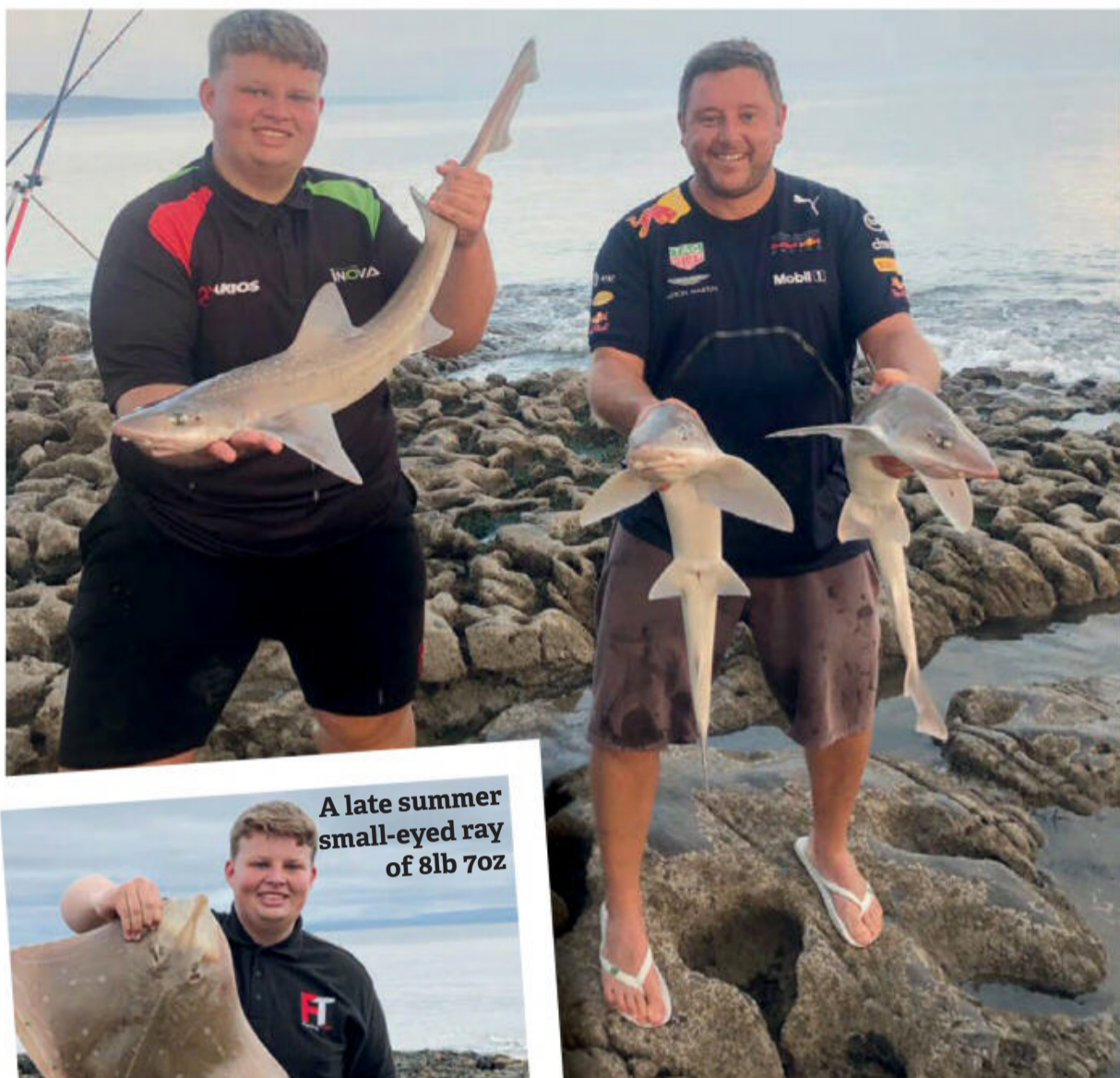
The summer included some memorable sessions, the first with Mark Denscombe when we saw porpoises hunting for food and bass jumping out of the water to avoid the marine mammals. We each caught three hounds and I lost a big one at my feet when it broke my rig. To finish the session we were treated to a lovely sunset which was the prelude to a massive lightning storm soon after we left.

The best session was a crazy one. It was on July 25 when I was joined on Newton Point by some top-class anglers – fishing guide Gareth Griffiths, Matthew Herring, Robbie Gratton, Ieuan Griffiths and Milo Bjegovic. Having met at 1pm, we were ready to wade across and passed the time baiting our first rigs. Within 20 minutes the rock was uncovered enough to wade out. Because Newton starts off as a small ledge only three of us managed to get on the rock at first.

Before I cast out the first fish was hooked by Matthew, and behind us on Billy's Rock I saw Ieuan was playing a fish. As I turned back to my rod the line had gone slack, so I wound in the line and could feel a fish on the end. While Matthew and I played our fish, Milo, Ieuan and Robbie joined us on the rock. We placed our hounds in a large pool so we could cast out again, just as Gareth landed his first hound and his second rod was going too. Not even

More hounds for Gareth and Matthew Herring





Mark Denscombe and Tom at Newton

two minutes later I was in action again with another hound.
The action continued throughout the crazy and unforgettable session. Robbie even caught two smoothhounds, for a total of 16lb, at once on his Pennell rig, proving the fish were competing to get the food. Milo had to leave after three hours but had landed 20 hounds, while Gareth stopped counting at 35.

LATE SHOW

Normally the hounds appear in May and leave in mid-September, but last year they left during the last week of August. The codling had moved in with some big ones being caught from the shore and boat.

With one week left before returning to college, my plan was to target cod and rays. Using crab and squid for most of one session, I blanked until low tide when I saw a little rattle on the rod tip and decided to retrieve my gear. There was no fight at all, but there seemed to be some weight on the end and, to my surprise, I caught a cod. I managed to add a few little strap conger eels too.

With a few days left of summer I wanted to catch a ray and managed to bag myself an 8lb 7oz small-eyed, just shy of my personal best of 8lb 9oz, about 60 yards out. ■

NEED TO KNOW

GETTING THERE

Travelling west, leave the M4 at junction 37 for the A4229 to Porthcawl/Pyle. At the roundabout take the A4229 for Porthcawl.

At the next roundabout with the Esso petrol station in front, take the third exit on to Pyle Road. At the next roundabout take the first exit (A4106) for the Trecco Bay before turning right into Newton Nottage Road. At the T junction, turn left and follow the road to its junction with the Globe Inn. Turn right and at the roundabout take the first exit into New Road. Take the next right to St John's Drive and the Trecco Bay Holiday Park is just ahead. It has a free car park only a three-minute walk from the mark.

TACKLE SHOP

■ Ewenny Angling Supplies, 21 Coychurch Rd Gardens, Bridgend, CF31 3AP, tel: 01656 650604.

■ Keens Tackle and Guns, 117, 119 Bridgend Rd, Aberkenfig, CF32 9AP, tel: 01656 722448.



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SEATOWN

This mark on the western edge of Dorset offers a wide variety of species with the chance to try different tactics

NESTLING ALONG THE WESTERN fringe of Dorset, the popular fishing destination of Seatown is located midway between West Bay and Lyme Regis.

A small stream flows out to the right of the adjacent car park and the favoured fishing area is approximately 300-400 metres to the left under the cliff. This is a shelving shingle beach, where the further you walk to the left the

rougher the seabed becomes. Very often the venue springs into life for bigger species 24 hours after a south-westerly blow when the water is coloured, but be warned the beach can be dangerous if there is a big swell running.

SEASONAL SPECIES

Being one of Dorset's most westerly venues, it often comes alive several weeks prior to the rest of the county's beaches with a few small-eyed rays often reported from late February onwards especially for the bigger casters. Sandeels along with Bluey/squid wraps work well for the early rays, dogfish and some

reasonable size pouting can also be expected.

Smoothhounds often put in an appearance from late April onwards, falling to ragworms, crabs or squid baits. Again most fish will be taken at maximum range.

A wide variety of species figure during the summer when early morning or late evening sessions are recommended to avoid the crowds of holidaymakers.

Shoals of mackerel will often move inshore especially if the high water coincides with dusk. Some really good bass can also be taken by anglers freelining a large fresh





Seatown is good for small-eyed rays



mackerel bait just a few yards from the shoreline during a calm summer evening. When targeting the bass at close range disturbance needs to be kept to a minimum because the fish can be spooked easily.

During August and September some decent wrasse can be caught in the rougher ground to the left, along with small bull huss and conger eels. In the autumn and early winter, a wide variety of species can be recorded including hefty congers, bass, wrasse, dogfish, pout and the occasional really good huss.

TACTICS

With the exception of bass, which are normally taken at close range under the cover of darkness, for most other species a good cast of 80 yards or more is recommended. The venue lends itself to both lure and float fishing during the summer, particularly for scad, garfish and mackerel.

For larger species, I generally use a pulley rig along with a Pennell rig made with size

4/0 hooks, but for general fishing I switch to a two-hook flapping rig with 18-inch hooklengths made with 20lb line and armed with size 2/0 hooks.

Sea conditions will determine the weight needed, but generally five or six ounce grippers are recommended. I always take a good supply of ragworms, sandeels and peeler crabs when visiting Seatown, but most baits will produce with squid and bluey favoured by many.

Generally a flood tide is favoured with the action often peaking two hours either side of

high water. Fishing is often weather related during the autumn and early winter. Stormy periods are best avoided, so fish when the sea starts to settle after a good blow. ■

NEED TO KNOW

GETTING THERE

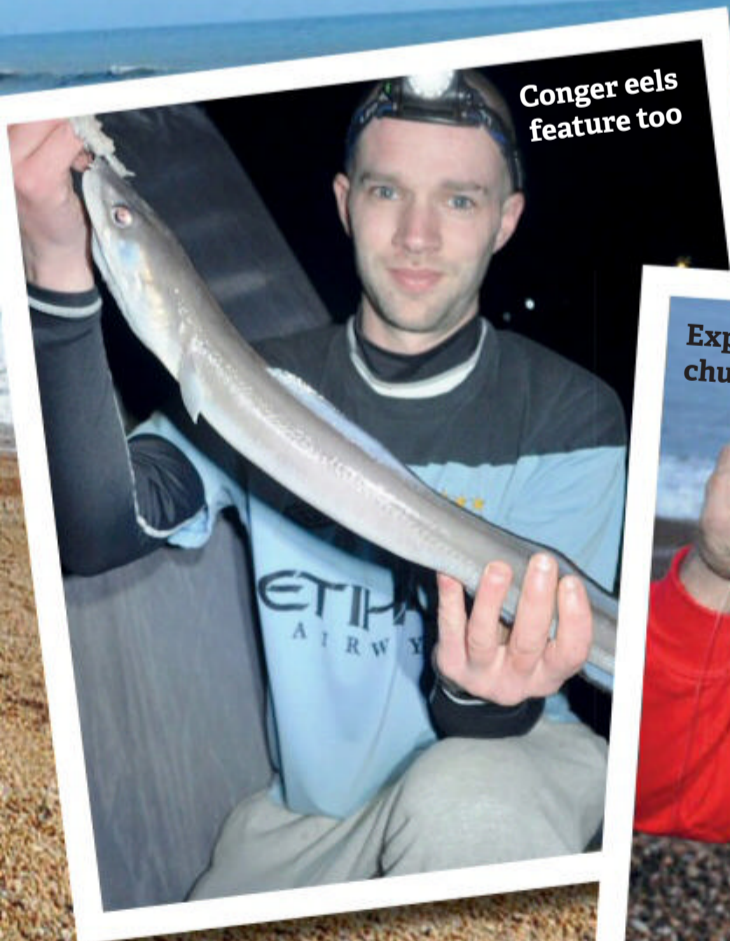
Seatown is approached by branching off the main A35 coast road at Chideock on to Sea Hill Lane, which leads directly to a car park almost on the beach. There is some free roadside parking during the winter but throughout the main season the car park is the only viable option.



TACKLE SHOP

■ Angling Centre West Bay, 10A West Bay, Bridport, DT6 4EL, tel: 01308 421800.
■ The Tackle Box, 20 Marine Parade, Lyme Regis, DT7 3JF, tel: 01297 443373.

Conger eels feature too



Expect some chunky pouting





RECVLVER & HERNE BAY

This stretch of Kent's northern coast has plenty to offer, but most anglers target the bass, thornback rays and smoothhounds

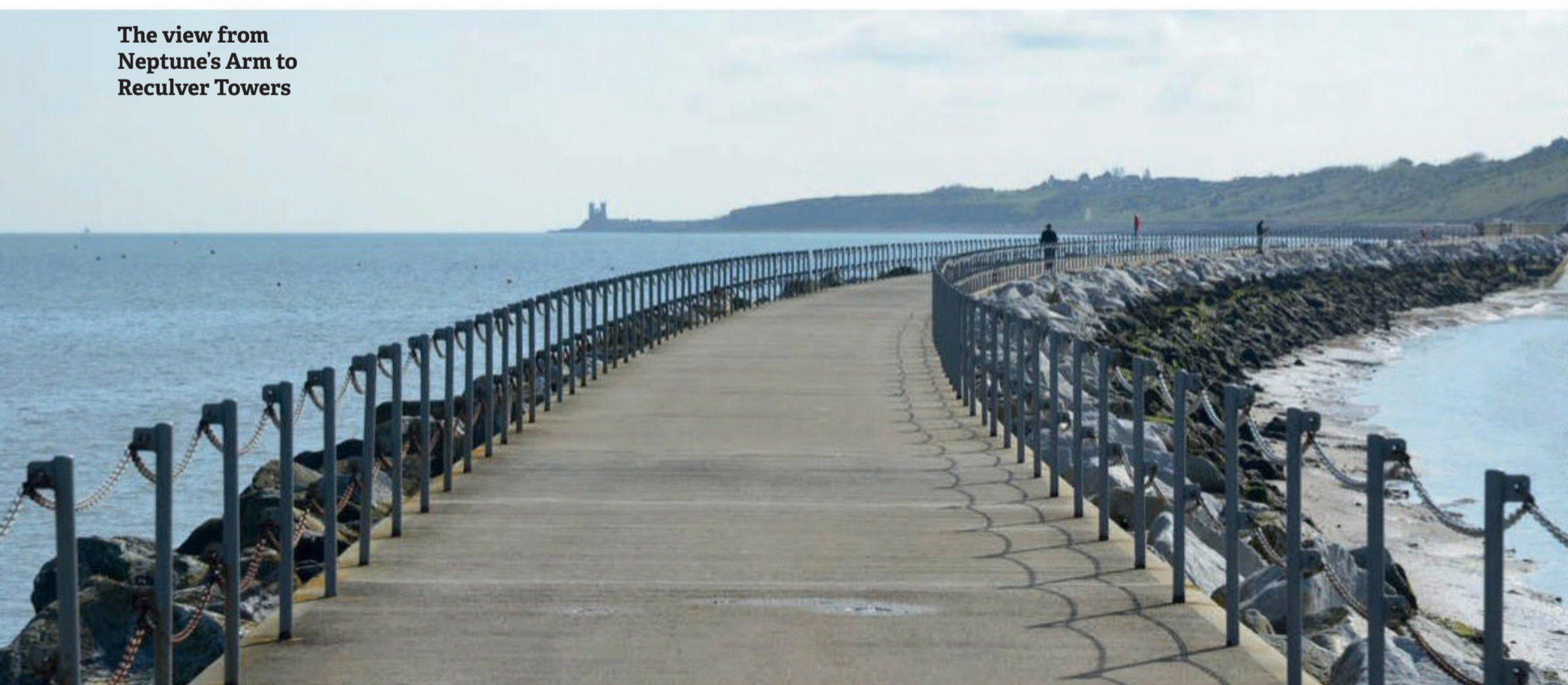


There are smoothhounds from spring onwards

THOSE SHORE ANGLERS WHO WANT to catch thornback rays or smoothhounds, with the chance of a bonus bass, should visit this area of Kent's north coast.

At Reculver, two areas close to the towers can produce good rays and smoothhounds. Around a mile away towards Herne Bay is the promenade outside the Kings Hall, a Victorian building that hosts concerts and other events. The fishing here is also over broken ground and the water is shallow so a big cast will come in handy.

The view from Neptune's Arm to Reculver Towers





The towers at Reculver are a local landmark

Anglers with limited mobility may prefer the small pier called Neptune's Arm at the end of the promenade at Herne Bay because there is nearby parking. There is limited space though, particularly if local anglers are doing well here and it gets busy. This pier offers some access to slightly deeper water.

Expect to catch thornback rays at Reculver

SEASONAL SPECIES

With much to offer the shore angler, thanks to a very good variety of species, the best fishing is from spring to November. Being a shallow beach, the fishing can decline in the colder months, but as soon as the shore crabs start to moult the fish show up to enjoy the feast.

From the spring, there are bass, rays and some good smoothhounds within range and some specimens weigh well into double figures. Whiting are the main winter species.

TACTICS

For the rays, a fish bait such as Bluey or herring, will do the job. A good choice is a two-hook Pennell rig loaded with Bluey or a squid and lugworm wrap. The bass and hounds prefer crabs, and, for smoothhounds, a hardback is just as effective.

The shoreline at Reculver consists of shingle and boulder groynes, with the seabed being broken rock and sandy patches where on long tides it is possible to collect lugworms, and, when in season, peeler crabs, and even a few ragworms.

To the left towards Herne Bay is the better bet for finding crabs because there are more rocks. Always take a look at low water to spot any potential fish-holding areas. Broken ground near the small pier is a good spot for collecting crabs and a few ragworms.

Remember, the whole area can get busy with tourists during the summer so fishing early and late is the best option. Weed can be a problem in certain wind conditions and can spoil a session. ■

NEED TO KNOW

GETTING THERE

From the M2, follow the A299 towards Seasalter and Grays, going into Reculver Lane (a narrow road so take care) and the Reculver country park. Next to the towers is a pay and display car park.

TACKLE SHOP

■ Ron Edwards Tackle, 50-52 High St, Herne Bay, CT6 5LH, tel: 01227 372517.





CHALKY POINT

Noted for large numbers of flatfish, the mark on the Humber also produces bass

LOCATED AT KILNSEA, A HAMLET two miles south of Easington and just before Spurn Head, you'll find Chalky Point on the north bank of the Humber Estuary.

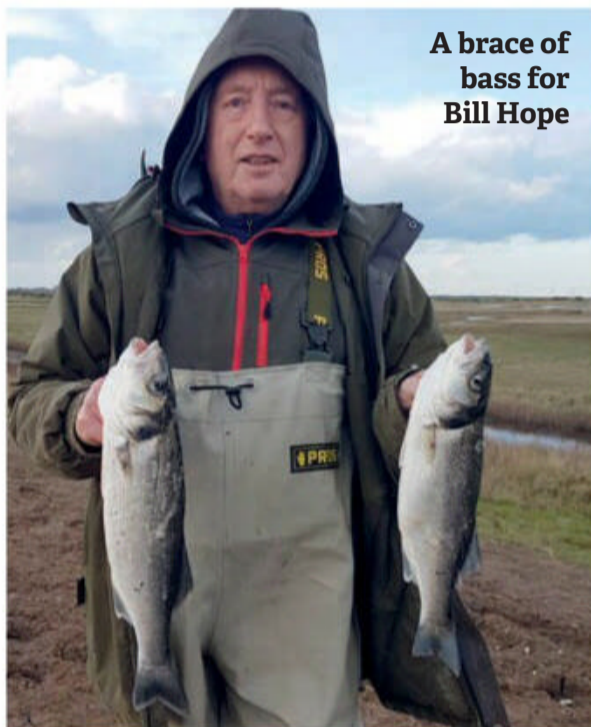
The fishing is from the rock-lined, raised bank of the estuary's flood defences. It is a shallow mark fished only at high water and best on bigger tides (at least a 5.5 metres on the Bridlington scale). The incoming tide floods over the estuary mud and reaches Chalky Point about two hours before high water.

SEASONAL SPECIES

The ground consists of silt-covered estuary mud, probably best known for its year-round flattie fishing along with spring and summer school bass.

Some local angling clubs use this very productive mark in their summer league matches because it produces large numbers of dabs and flounders. Big bags of flatties, bass and eels are needed to place in these matches (mainly catch and release).

Don't think that this is just a small fish venue because it does produce the occasional better bass. The bass arrive in late March or early April and stay until late October. Some of my best bass from here were caught during June



A brace of bass for Bill Hope

and July, mainly on evening tides during hot days with a light south-westerly wind. Chalky Point can fish well in rough weather, when the mud gets stirred up and gets the fish feeding.

The area is part of a nature reserve, with many species of wetland birds, so be respectful and take all litter home.

TACTICS

Light tackle is all that is needed here. Use a Continental, bass or flattie rod, although when targeting bass I use my standard beach rods because some of the bigger fish seem to stay out at range. For bass, the rig can be a pulley or fixed paternoster, both incorporating two size 2/0 to 4/0 hooks rigged Pennell style.

For the flatfish, use a two or three-hook flapper with small fine-wire Aberdeen hooks.

The local Spurn lugworms, black lug, ragworms and harbour rag all catch well. Small worm baits tipped off with fish, squid or crab interest the flatties, while bass go for worms, peeler crabs or squid.

Be aware that heavy lead weights can stick into the mud on casting so either feather your cast down so it lands gently or pull back after casting to get the sinker out from the mud. It will prevent a lot of missed bites.

During a visit on March 26, I fished two-hook clipped rigs and loop rigs for flatfish and my dad Bill used pulley rigs for early bass. We had lug and black lug for bait. After catching a small flattie on my first cast, my dad had two school bass. I switched to pulley rigs and caught a 4lb 8oz bass. Later my dad added another schoolie and a decent flounder. ■

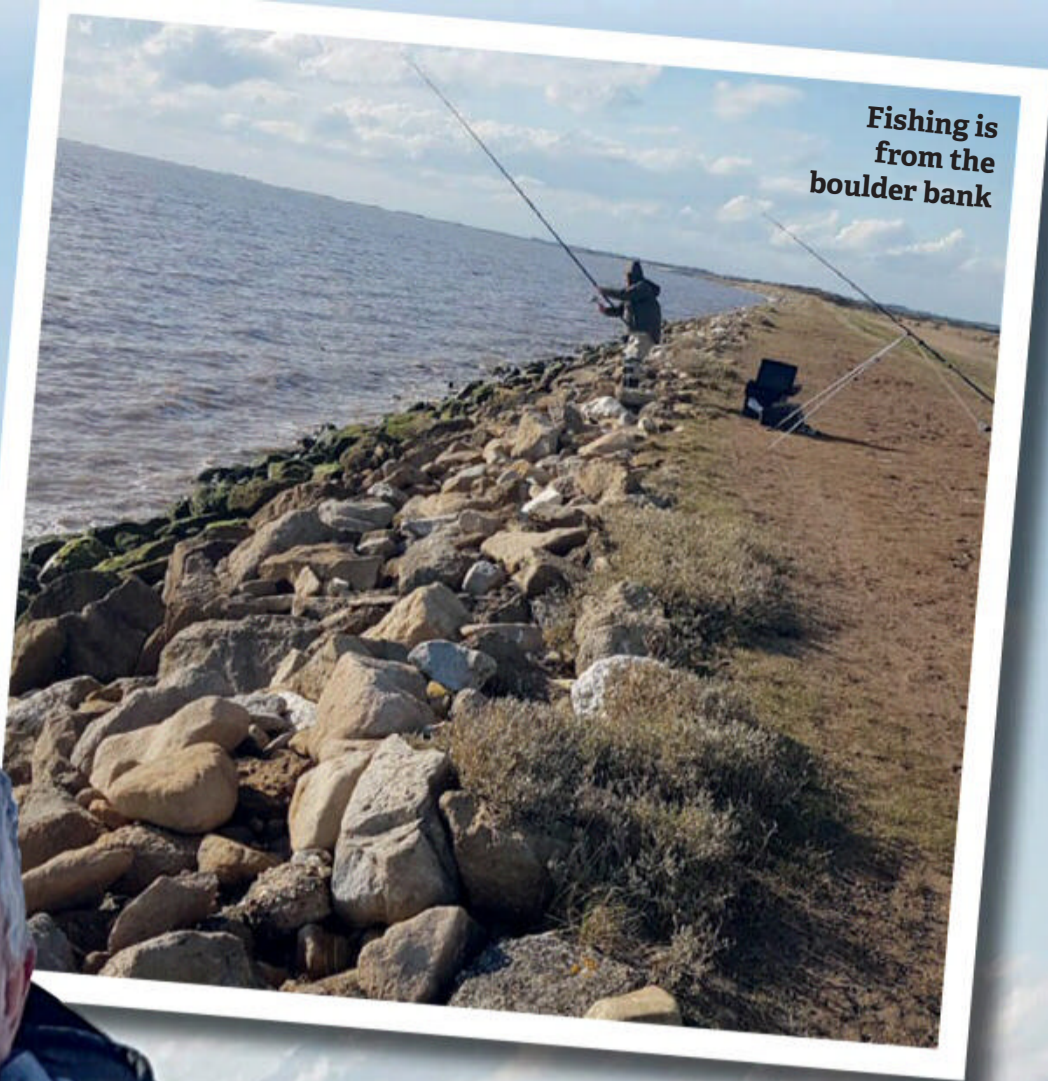


There are plenty of flatfish here





The walk to the mark is easy



Fishing is from the boulder bank



■ Turn the page to read about catching bass during a family outing to another mark at Kilnsea.

NEED TO KNOW

GETTING THERE

From Patrington, take the B1445 to Easington. Once through Easington, you are on Seaside Road where you turn right on to Firtholme Road.

Drive towards Spurn until the Crown and Anchor pub on Easington Road (HU12 0UB). There is room to park off the road. It's short walk to the mark. Across the road from the pub is a flood defence wall with black railings. To your right, across the bay, follow the small beach until you see the raised bank. The part where the bank bends at the end of the bay is Chalky Point.

Alternatively, go back down the Easington road about 100 yards or so and, on the left after the hotel, is a metal gate and track that follows the Humber bank. Walk past the second of these farm gates and the bend in the track is Chalky Point.



TACKLE SHOP

■ Holderness Tackle, 118 Queen Street, Withernsea, HU19 2HB, tel: 01964 612340.



ESCAPE TO KILNSEA



A howling wind forces a retreat from the open coast, but for Matt Hope it turns into a battering from his wife and youngest son

The shingle beach at Sandgate

**A gleaming
bass for
Mel Hope**



WITH FISHING GOING WELL for rays and smoothhounds on the Holderness Coast, my wife Melanie and youngest son Henry were keen to try their luck. Unfortunately, the weather forecast of strong easterly winds had almost written off our chances.

These are not the conditions favoured on this part of the East Yorkshire coast, yet there was hardly a breath of wind only 45 minutes away where we live just outside Hull. The tree tops were hardly moving. With lunch over, I was being pushed to make a decision.

With a few crabs that needed using or freezing, I decided to drive to the coast and check out Easington. If the conditions were unfavourable, my backup plan was to try for bass in the River Humber. It was the end of May last year and, as I loaded our fishing tackle into the truck, I added the bait fork because we would need some fresh lugworms if we ended



**A spot of digging
produced some
fresh lugworms**

**Ready to cast out
a fresh lug bait**

up fishing the river. There are only two baits I use for the bass in the Humber, peeler crabs or lug. Yes, squid works but I find worms or crabs more productive.

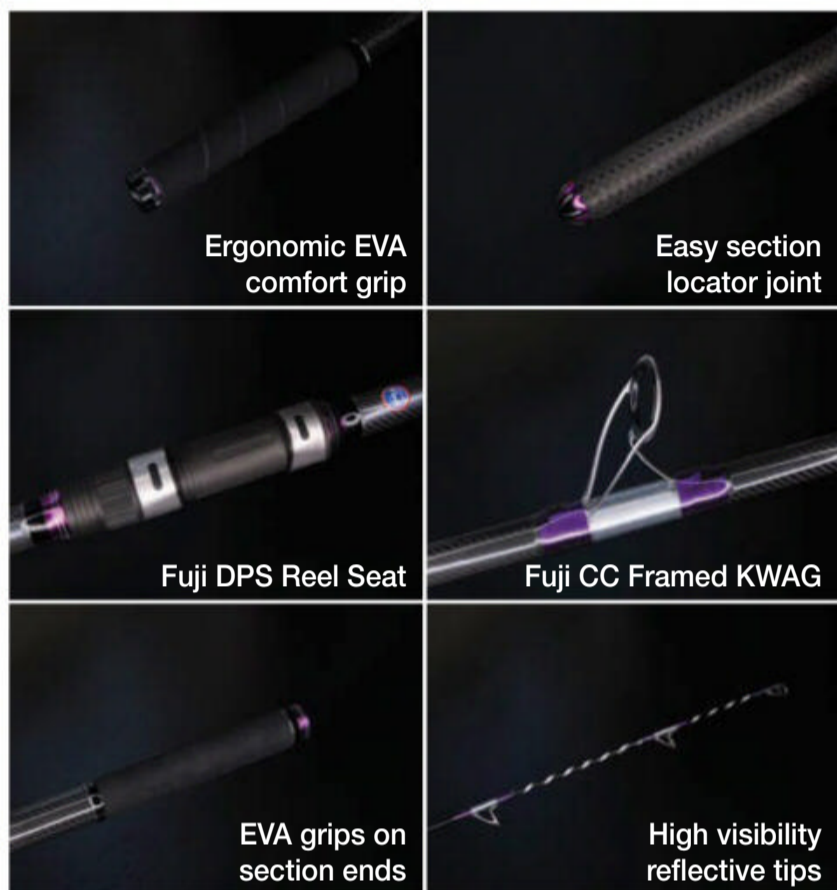
As we passed Hull marina, the flags confirmed the wind was blowing from the east. It didn't seem very strong there, but the nearer we got to the coast the stronger it got. As I parked near the cliff top at Easington, the wind was so fierce that Mel and Henry struggled to open their doors. One quick glance over the top was enough to tell us we'd be fishing inside the Humber Estuary. It would be a mad dash to the backup venue of Kilnsea if we wanted to get plenty of lug because the tide was flooding. ▶






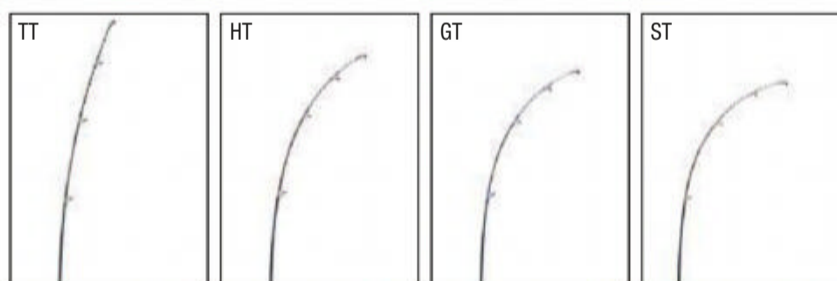
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Aimed at the seasoned match or specialist shore angler who wants the very best. Constructed from lightweight carbon using Nano Graphene Matrix, these rods are super strong with a hundred times more strength compared to steel of the same thickness. There are four rods in the range designed to cater for all angling eventualities from a long casting, tubular tip rod for rough ground and heavy work through to a soft-tipped, scratching rod.



MODEL / TIP			
TT – Tubular Tip	3	4.2m and 4.5m	130 – 250g
HT – Hard Tip	3	4.2m and 4.5m	110 – 225g
GT – Medium Tip	3	4.2m and 4.5m	100 – 190g
ST – Soft Tip	3	4.2m and 4.5m	90 – 175g



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There were flounders too



A flattie for Henry Hope



A school bass caught at close range

LIMITED TIME

After the short drive we unloaded the truck and headed off to a little spot I like to fish. Tucked in there, at least the strong wind would be off our backs. Henry questioned the rush because he could only see the water far away in the distance out on the estuary mudflats.

The shallow water soon comes in at some pace here, so I walked out on to the estuary mud to dig the lugworms, leaving the others to set up the rods and beach shelter. Digging here is hard work and there is definitely a knack to it. Within an hour the water was filling the holes that I'd dug so it was now time to head back in and get some rigs baited.

Fishing time is limited here to around three and a half hours, slightly more on big spring tides. You get a little longer on Chalky Point (see page 28), a more popular mark a little further back towards Easington because it protrudes further out on to the mud, meaning the water reaches it first. Fishing Chalky Point is from an exposed raised bank, which results in very uncomfortable fishing in a strong easterly wind.

I like to get my bait in the water early because I have caught bass in a depth of only a few inches here as the tide floods over the mud. A good tip is to feather your cast at the end so it lands gently, if not pull back so the lead weight does not plug in the mud. I have missed good bites when this has happened.

I planned to use a full crab at range on size 4/0 hooks in the hope of a bigger bass, while Melanie and Henry would use flapper rigs or loop rigs armed with smaller hooks in size 1 or 1/0 carrying the freshly dug lug or the crab. They'd fish a lot closer, between 30 and 60 yards which suited their casting.

INSTANT ACTION

With all the rods out, we didn't have to wait long before the two closer range rods were showing signs of interest. There are quite a few flounders and dabs here and they took a liking to the lug. Mel and Henry had a flattie each first cast. Mel's next cast didn't go as well as she hoped and dropped a lot shorter. Not

wanting to waste the two big juicy lug on her rig, she decided to give it a few minutes to see if anything was feeding so close. The next bite was what we'd come for. Mel's Century Excalibur J-Curve's tip pulled over and soon she was into a hard-fighting school bass.

The run up to high tide proved to be a bite a chuck, with only an occasional one missed, for the close-range rods fished with lug. Getting slightly envious of the action, I was tempted to change rigs and drop short myself. Almost at high water the tip of my rod fished at long range slammed over lifting the butt up off the sand. A decent bass had smashed my peeler crab bait, but nothing else occurred. I left it a few minutes to see if this fish would return to finish its meal, but nothing happened. This little bit of interest in my crab bait was enough to make me persevere with a big bait at range for the rest of the session.

After a slightly slower hour and a few missed bites due to the lack of tide run over high water, Mel and Henry, who were using light braid mainline, were soon catching school bass and flatties once the ebb began. Some of the bites from the schoolies were very aggressive at such short-range.

EVENTFUL SESSION

Mel had just landed the best fish of the day, a bass probably close to the 2lb, which she returned after a quick photograph. After she had cast out again and was baiting up a spare rig, I noticed her braid had gone slack and was flapping in the breeze. I pointed it out to her, she grabbed the rod, took up the slack line and saw her rod arch over. This fish was really pulling back, fighting hard in the shallow water. It took line, darted left and right, as Mel had to take things very easy due to the light tackle and small hooks being used.

We knew she had something special on her hook. After a long battle, Mel pulled her prize out of the muddy water on to the sand and shingle. Her face beamed with a grin from ear to ear as a bass glistened in the evening sun. What a finish to an eventful session for Mel and Harry. My long-range, big bait tactics

didn't pay off and I only had that one smashed crab and a few tiny rattles from greedy flatties. My excuse is that being the ghillie, photographer and bait digger kept me busy.

Kilnsea can be fished all year. Winter produces mainly flatfish and very occasional coalfish. The bass fishing is best from May until October. Hot sunny days in June and July produce really good fishing. Late afternoon/evening tides are much better than morning tides for some reason. I've had many discussions with other anglers about this, but nobody is really sure about the reason why fishing later is best. Eels and mullet are present but rarely caught. My brother John caught a mullet on my dad's rod at Chalky Point. My dad had wandered off to talk to a friend and my brother reeled in the fish. I don't think my dad has ever got over missing out on catching a very tricky Humber mullet. ■

NEED TO KNOW

GETTING THERE

To get to Kilnsea, follow the A1033 from Hull to Patrington, turn right on to the B1445 heading to Spurn. There is a pay parking at Kilnsea

Wetlands nature reserve, otherwise space is quite limited.



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six&bait rod mk2

Surfcasting Rods	OUR RRP	PRICE
13ft 5-7oz Fixed Spool	£235	£225
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The Akios UTOPIA is a superb all-rounder combining plentiful power, fast recovery, lightness and bite detection. The phosphorescent glow-in-the-dark tip is a godsend during night sessions. The tip slowly emits light energy absorbed from a headlight ensuring sight of tip action whether or not direct light is present.

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HELLRAZOR 420 SS
3 PIECE • 4.2m/14ft 112-225g/4-8oz

The Akios Hellrazor SS 420 offers outstanding performance at an affordable price including fuji guides and fuji reel seat. The AKIOS HELLRAZOR is a powerful blank that still loads its high energy carbon power tip easily. Developed for the angler that's seeking to add extra yardage to their cast.

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AKIOS FEEL the FURY

NEW FOR 2021 **FURY FX420**
CONTINENTAL ROD • 3 PIECE • 4.2m • 100-180g

The AKIOS FURY is sure to set new standards, the rod looks and behaves fantastically being tested for over 6 months. The AKIOS FURY rod series offers unbelievable value! Made from high modulus carbon fibre, incorporating a spliced tip, SeaGuide quality guides and reel seats, it is a true GEM, it's sure to become a best seller's in the Surf market in the U.K. around Europe and further afield.

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3 PIECE • CARBON CONSTRUCTION 4.35m/14.5ft • 110-220g/4-8oz

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Unbeatable performance for the price. Available in three lengths to cover most shore fishing applications, the blanks are well balanced with a progressive casting action and excellent bite registration.

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VaderXS Shore Rod - 13' - 4-6oz - 2 Piece	£54.99	£49.99
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Featuring upgraded more powerful yet lighter blanks from its SKS Shore Rod predecessor that whilst every casting ability easily, each rod is individually tailored to offer the perfect 'all round' actions, which mean they are as effective on clean ground as they are in heavy terrain.

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AVX 10000

Designed to give smooth long casts, the large handle helps to speed gear and fish back to the beach.

Superbly smooth & highly functional reel with slow oscillation & long coned spool for super smooth line lay and ultra-long distance casts.

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The new flagship surf rod. Because of the Spiral X & Hi-Power X blank technology, this rod is the ultimate surf rod with unbelievable distance casting abilities. The Spiral X construction results in reduced torsion and ovalisation while the Hi-Power X construction results in reduced blank twist and greater rod strength. Overall this creates a very strong, stiff and lightweight rod blank with incredible casting performance (both distance and accuracy).

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Surf Leader Ultra BX 14ft 9in Tubular 3 Piece	£474.99	£429.99
Surf Leader Ultra BX 14ft 9in Solid 3 Piece	£484.99	£439.99

SHIMANO ULTEGRA BX SURF RODS

The new Ultegra BX has a new improved blank with Hi-Power X technology. This blank stands out in strength and stiffness and reduces blank twist, making this rods at true casting machine. The rod blank is strong, stiff and yet light of weight. The Hi-Power X blank provides excellent casting distance and accuracy. All rods have the Cast Control Grip to facilitate a strong hold when casting.

	RRP	NOW
Ultegra BX Surf 13ft 11in 225g Tubular 3 Piece	£289.99	£264.99
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The Speed Master surf range is completely renewed: the new blanks are built with HPC2.00+NANO technology, making them lighter and stiffer for increased casting distance. In addition, new hybrid tip models are added to the range.

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6-8oz

TUBULAR TIP Traditional tip action

SOLID TIP Ultra sensitive tip action

HYBRID TIP Sensitive tip action

SHIMANO VENGEANCE SURF ROUGH GROUND RODS

- Strong and powerful Full Carbon blank ideal for rough ground and large fish surf fishing
- Strong Seaguide stainless steel DL SIC guides
- Shimano Sliding Reel Seat for adjustable multiplier reel placement
- Shrink tube handle with Cross Grip Tape
- 225g / 6-8oz

	RRP	NOW
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The Nexave Surf is new in the surf-rods family. It is a mid-segment rod with excellent casting capabilities and beautiful looks.

- Blank material: XT60
- Reel seat: Fuji DPS
- Guide type: Seaguide
- Number of guides: 7

	RRP	NOW
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Nexave BX Tubular Surf 4.5m 225g / 6-8oz 3 Piece	£139.99	£129.99
Nexave BX Solid Surf 4.25m 225g / 6-8oz 3 Piece	£129.99	£119.99
Nexave BX Solid Surf 4.5m 225g / 6-8oz 3 Piece	£139.99	£129.99

SHIMANO SURFCASTING REELS

	RRP	NOW
Aero Technium Mg5 14000 XSC Mag Reel	£659.99	£599.99
Surfleader C14+ Reel	£274.99	£249.99
Fliegen 35SD Reel	£419.99	£359.99
Power Aero 14000 XSB Reel	£379.99	£349.99
Ultegra C14+ 14000 XSC Reel	£279.99	£239.99
Ultegra 14000 XSD Reel	£174.99	£149.99

SONIK GRAVITY X5 HT SHORE ROD

Unground carbon finish at rod joints makes it easier to take apart after use.

- White hollow carbon tip for easy bite detection in poor light conditions
- Fuji corrosion control frames provide 7 times more corrosion resistance
- Shrink wrap on the lower handle to improve grip whilst casting
- Super lightweight high modulus carbon blank
- X5 multi-directional nanofibre tip section lay-up
- Fuji Alconite K Series guides
- Fuji DPS reel fitting

It's an absolutely fantastic shore rod 'The ultimate power is utterly immense and evident during the casting process'

Paul Fenech - Sea Angler review issue 566 Jan/Feb '19

	RRP	NOW
14ft - 5-7oz - 2 Piece	£329.99	£249.99
15ft 4in - 4-8oz - 3 Piece	£349.99	£259.99

A true all rounder...

TG-F1 MK5 CHROME 6500

Built in the UK to the highest standards making it the ultimate casting / fishing reel available straight out of the box.

- End plates: Chromed Brass.
- Spool: Hard anodised Duraluminium.
- Bearings: Hybrid Ceramic ABEC 7 Bearings with Silicon Nitride Balls.
- Pinion gear: Hardened Bronze.
- Brakes: Mono-Mag & Centrifugal braking systems.
- Mag: Mono-mag.
- Gear ratio: 5.3:1.

£479.95

SHIMANO SpeedMaster BEACH RODS

- High Modulus Full Carbon + HPC blank with Nanosheet technology produces lighter, stronger blank with increased responsiveness and casting distance.
- Extra fast action for increased tip speed when casting.
- Ultra sensitive solid tip design for excellent bite registration.
- Fuji Fazlite K Type anti-tangle guides and Fuji DPS reel seat.
- Cast control handle grip for assured handling when casting

	RRP	NOW
Speedmaster Beach Rod 14ft 9in 3 Piece + 3 Tips 120g / 4oz	£214.99	£179.99
Speedmaster Beach Rod 15ft 5in 3 Piece 150g / 6oz	£214.99	£179.99

SHIMANO SpeedMaster LITE ROD + 2 TIPS

- High Modulus Full Carbon + HPC blank with Nanosheet technology produces lighter, stronger blank with increased responsiveness and casting distance
- Extra fast action for increased tip speed when casting.
- Ultra sensitive solid tip design for excellent bite registration.
- Fuji Fazlite K Type anti-tangle guides and Fuji DPS reel seat.
- Cast control handle grip for assured handling when casting

	RRP	NOW
Speedmaster Lite + 2 Tips 13ft 2 Piece - 120g / 4.25oz	£194.99	£159.99

SHIMANO VENGEANCE SURF RODS

- Strongly improved blank which has much more power. The rod is much stiffer, more responsive and powerful. This results in better casting distance.
- The tip sections have reduced diameters (0.5 mm less) which makes them lighter and more sensitive for better bite registration.
- Cast Control Grip for good grip when casting.

	RRP	NOW
Vengeance BX Tubular Surf Rod 4.25m - 225g / 6-8oz 3 Piece	£99.99	£89.99
Vengeance BX Tubular Surf Rod 4.5m - 225g / 6-8oz 3 Piece	£99.99	£89.99
Vengeance BX Solid Surf Rod 4.25m - 225g / 6-8oz 3 Piece	£104.99	£94.99
Vengeance BX Solid Surf Rod 4.5m - 225g / 6-8oz 3 Piece	£104.99	£94.99
Vengeance Surf Rough Ground 3.96m - 225g / 6-8oz 2 Piece	£104.99	£94.99

SHIMANO NEXAVE SURF LITE / ROUGH GROUND

The Nexave 2PC is a strong rod with a fast progressive action with good casting qualities. It comes in 2 models: a Lite version (good for allround usage with leads up to max 120 gram) and a Rough Ground version (for heavy-duty usage with leads up to 225 gram). The Lite has a Pac Bay Plate reel seat and the Rough Ground a Shimano Sliding reel seat. This sliding reel seat gives the angler full control, because with this the height of the reel can be adjusted.

	RRP	NOW
Nexave Surf Lite 13ft 120g / 4.25oz 2 Piece	£134.99	£119.99
Nexave Surf Rough Ground 13ft 225g / 5.3oz 2 Piece	£139.99	£124.99

SHIMANO ALIVIO BX TUBULAR TIP SURF RODS

The new entry level Shimano 3pc surf casting rods. Even for this price level, the XT30 blanks are very good (stiff, responsive and powerful) and in combination with the anti tangle Hardlite guides, this new Alivio casts big distances.

- Fast action composite blank
- Excellent combination of distance casting performance and value for money
- Shimano anti-tangle stainless steel Hardlite guides
- Shimano DPS-type reel seat

	RRP	NOW
Alivio BX Surf 13ft 11in 225g Tubular 3 Piece	£59.99	£59.99
Alivio BX Surf 14ft 9in 225g Tubular 3 Piece	£69.99	£69.99

SHIMANO STC TRAVEL SURF RODS

The STC Surf rods are completely redeveloped and are the successors of the Beastmaster STC Surf rods which are already in the Shimano rod range for a long time. These rods are ideal for anglers who are travelling to abroad fishing destinations. These Surf rods are suitable for all-round surfcasting, but they are stronger than conventional surf rods, making them very suitable to fish for big fish from the shore / beach.

	RRP	NOW
STC Surf BX-H 4.25m 6 Piece	£224.99	£199.99
STC Surf 13ft 6 Piece	£249.99	£229.99



AIR SURF **NEW**

Ideal for experienced to competition anglers, the Air Surf is a top of the line surf rod capable of giving you a long range cast.

- SVF and X45
- V-Joint Carbon Technology
- Mega Top Carbon Hybrid Tip
- Japanese Shrink Tube Handle
- Slide Locking DPS Reel Seat
- Fuji Guide with Alconite Rings

		RRP	NOW
13ft 6in - 4-8oz - Multiplier	2 Piece.....	£470	£369.99
14ft 2in - 4-8oz - Multiplier	3 Piece.....	£495	£389.99
15ft 3in - 3-7oz - Fixed Spool Rings	3 Piece.....	£515	£399.99



SALTIST SURF RODS

Harnessing the best performance from HVF and X45 ensures that these Saltist rods not only have the power but the torque busting resistance of X45 ensures you get the maximum return from effort.

- HVF High Volume Fibre
- X45 Technology
- V-Joint
- Fuji 'O' Ring Guides
- Fuji Reels Seats
- EVA and Shrink Grip handles

		RRP	NOW
12ft 6in - 3-7oz - Multiplier	2 Piece.....	£205	£169.99
13ft 6in - 3-7oz - Multiplier	2 Piece.....	£225	£184.99
14ft 2in - 3-7oz - Multiplier	2 Piece.....	£230	£189.99
14ft - 3-5oz - Fixed Spool	2 Piece.....	£245	£199.99
14ft - 3-6oz - Fixed Spool	2 Piece - Hybrid Tip NEW	£245	£224.99
15ft - 3-6oz - Fixed Spool	2 Piece - Hybrid Tip NEW	£260	£234.99



SEAHUNTER Z

- Premium Grade Blank + Shrink Tube Handle
- DPS Slide Locking Reel Seat
- Stainless Frame Guides with Aluminium Oxide Rings

		RRP	NOW
Seahunter Z Surf Rod			
12ft - 3-7oz	2 Piece.....	£89.99	£84.99
13ft - 3-7oz	2 Piece.....	£99.99	£89.99
14ft - 3-7oz	3 Piece.....	£105.99	£94.99
Seahunter Z Bass Rod			
11ft 6" - 2-4oz	2 Piece.....	£74.99	£69.99
Seahunter Z Bass Travel Rod			
11ft - 2-4oz	6 Piece.....	£85.00	£74.99
Seahunter Z Spin Rod			
10ft - 1-3oz	2 Piece.....	£47.99	£39.99



MULTIPLIER SURF REELS

		RRP	NOW
7HT Millionaire Tournament		RRP £199	£139.99
7HT Millionaire Mag		RRP £365	£249.99
7HT Millionaire Mag Super Tuned		RRP £545	£379.99
SL20SH Sealine Sloss		RRP £130	£89.99
SL30SH Sealine Sloss		RRP £130	£89.99
Sealine Sloss XA	3 Models		from £129.99



"Nothing short of superb"

Sea Angler Review, June 2019

Read the review by **DAVID BARHAM** on our website

Super Kenzaki FS (Fixed Spool) Boat Rod
6-12lb, 6-15lb, 12-20lb, 15-25lb, 20-30lb or 30-50lb
7', 7'6" or 8'
RRP £160 **£129.99**

BG Magsealed Spinning Reel
7 Models - RRP £165-£210 **from £139.99**

A MATCH MADE IN HEAVEN



LURE RODS

Saltist Bass Rods - 2 Piece - 5 Models.....from £119.99

Whisker Bass Rods - 2 Piece - 4 Models.....from £137.99

Saltist Travel Lure Rods - 4 & 5 Piece - 4 Models.....from £149.99



BASS RODS FOR 2021

		RRP	NOW
VENGEANCE CX SEA BASS RODS			
7ft 7-35g, 10-50g, 15-60g	2 Piece.....	£31.99	
8ft 7-35g, 10-50g, 15-60g	2 Piece.....	£38.99	
9ft 10-50g, 15-60g	2 Piece.....	£48.99	
LUNAMIS BASS RODS			
8ft 6in 6-25g, 7-35g	2 Piece.....	£299.99	
9ft 5-21g, 6-25g	2 Piece.....	£299.99	
9ft 6in 7-35g, 10-45g	2 Piece.....	£329.99	
BASSTERRA BASS RODS			
8ft LRF 3-15g	2 Piece.....	£49.99	
7ft 2in LRF 1-11g	2 Piece.....	£44.99	
8ft 6-28g	2 Piece.....	£64.99	
9ft 7-30g, 12-38g	2 Piece.....	£69.99	
9ft 6in 15-60g	2 Piece.....	£74.99	
DIALUNA BASS RODS			
8ft 3-21g	2 Piece.....	£239.99	
9ft 6-32g	2 Piece.....	£239.99	
9ft 6-28g	4 Piece.....	£239.99	
9ft 6in 8-45g	2 Piece.....	£239.99	
10ft 10-56g	2 Piece.....	£239.99	



SALTWATER LURE REELS

		RRP	NOW
Socorro 4 Models		RRP £94.99 - £99.99	from £84.99
Spheros 5 Models		RRP £149.99 - £199.99	from £139.99
Spheros SW 3 Models		RRP £104.99 - £109.99	from £94.99
Stradic FL 11 Models		RRP £164.99 - £189.99	from £149.99



TOURNAMENT SURF

Built using Daiwa's unique carbon technology, HVF High Volume Fibre for a lighter stiffer blank. Bias carbon V-Joint has been applied for a more progressive curve and X45 in key loading areas to control torque during casting. This ultimately converts more energy for longer distance and improved accuracy. Furnished with premium Fuji K Alconite guides with and Fuji reel seat. All multiplier models are fitted with sliding reel seats with a fixed DPS on fixed spool and bass models.

		RRP	NOW
Tournament Surf Rods - 2 Piece			
11ft 6in - 1-3oz Multiplier Rings	2 Piece.....	£220	£199
12ft 6in - 3-7oz Multiplier Rings	2 Piece.....	£299	£259
13ft 6in - 3-7oz Multiplier Rings	2 Piece.....	£325	£279
14ft 2in - 4-8oz Multiplier Rings	2 Piece.....	£350	£299
Tournament Surf Rods - 3 Piece			
14ft - 3-6oz Fixed Spool Rings	3 Piece.....	£285	£249
16ft - 3-6oz Fixed Spool Rings	3 Piece.....	£325	£279
Tournament HT (Hybrid Tip) Surf Rods - 3 Piece			
14ft - 3-6oz Fixed Spool Rings	3 Piece.....	£310	£279
15ft - 3-6oz Fixed Spool Rings	3 Piece.....	£325	£289



SANDSTORM SURF RODS

- Premium Carbon Blanks
- Sliding DPS Reel Seat
- SEAGUIDE Deep Drawn Frame Guides with Aluminium Oxide Ring
- Split EVA Grip Handle
- Fuji BRC Butt Cap

		RRP	NOW
12ft 6in - 100g-200g - Multiplier	2 Piece.....	£155	£139
13ft 6in - 100g-200g - Multiplier	2 Piece.....	£165	£149
14ft 2in - 100g-200g - Multiplier	2 Piece.....	£175	£159
12ft 6in - 100g-200g - Fixed Spool	2 Piece.....	£155	£139
13ft 6in - 100g-200g - Fixed Spool	2 Piece.....	£165	£149



FIXED SPOOL REELS

		RRP	NOW
Shorecast 25A Fixed Spool Surf Reel		£64.99	
Shorecast 5000B Fixed Spool Surf Reel		£79.99	
Shorecast 6000B Fixed Spool Surf Reel		£79.99	
Emcast Fixed Spool Surf Reel	2 Models - NOW	from £79	
19 Emblem Surf 45 SCW QD Surfcasting Reel			£159.99



5 NEW PRODUCTS FOR 2020/21

		RRP	NOW
20 Tournament Basia Surf 45 SCW QD Reel		£559.99	
20 Crosscast 35 SCW Surf 5000C QD Reel		£89.99	
20 Crosscast 45 SCW Surf 5000C QD Reel		£94.99	
20 Saltiga LD 10 Models		£425 - £675	
Crosscast 33 Surf Rod			
13ft 10in - 100-200g.....		£89.99	
14ft 10in - 100-200g.....		£104.99	



SALTWATER SPINNING REELS

		RRP	NOW
BG Fixed Spool Reels	7 Models - from	£99	
BG Magsealed Spinning Reels	7 Models - from	£139.99	
20 BG MQ Fixed Spool Reels	10 Models - from	£189.99	



TRAVEL SPINNING RODS

A travel rod with a transport length of just 58cm, this is a rod you can pack in your suitcase, car, backpack or wherever you want to store it!

		RRP	NOW
9ft 15-40g	5 Piece.....	£109.99	£95
9ft 20-60g	5 Piece.....	£114.99	£99
10ft 20-60g	5 Piece.....	£124.99	£110
2.4/2.7m 3-14g	6 Piece Multi Length.....	£114.99	£99
2.4/2.7m 15-40g	6 Piece Multi Length.....	£119.99	£105
2.7/3m 20-60g	6 Piece Multi Length.....	£129.99	£115



BEST SELLING SEA SPINNING REELS

		RRP	NOW
SOCORRO from		£84.99	
STRADIC FL from		£154.99	
SPHEROS from		£139.99	
SARAGOSA SW-A from		£204.99	
STRADIC C14+ from		£154.99	
TWIN POWER from		£299.99	
STELLA FJ from		£539.99	
STELLA SW-C from		£679.99	



SHIMANO SEA SPINNING REELS

		RRP	NOW
Twin Power XD 6 Models		RRP £379.99 - £389.99	Esee website
Twin Power FD 11 Models		RRP £349.99 - £379.99	from £299.99
Twin Power SW-B 5 Models		RRP £379.99 - £454.99	from £339.99
Twin Power SW-C Models		RRP £379.99 - £484.99	Esee website
Vanquish 9 Models		RRP £404.99 - £424.99	from £349.99

SHIMANO SHARK FISHING TACKLE

A selection of rods and reels specially selected for shark fishing

Tyrnos A Stand-Up Rod	30lb, 50lb.....	from £189.99
TLD Stand-Up Rod	20lb, 30lb, 50lb from	£99.99
Vengeance Stand-Up Rod	30-50lb.....	£49.99
Beastmaster CX Boat Rod	30-50lb.....	£94.99
Aspire Braid Boat Rod	30-50lb.....	£279.99
Technium Slim Boat Rod	30-50lb.....	£109.99
Beastmaster BX Slim Boat Rod	30-50lb.....	from £94.99
Vengeance AX Slim Boat Rod	30-50lb.....	£69.99

TIAGRA 30A 30 Wide, 50 Wide	TALICA 25 - 50
from £449.99	from £479.99

TYRNOS 20 II, 30 II, 50 II	TLD TLD 25, TLDII 30, TLDII 50
from £299.99	from £129.99

SHIMANO TROLLING BOAT RODS

TYRNOS TROLLING Full Carbon + HPC + Biofibre blanks SHIMANO Stainless Steel roller guides on 50 & 80 models Pac Bay aluminium butt reel seat EVA front grip & Aluminium rear grip 50lb, 80lb, 80lb R, 130lb & 130lb B 5 Models from £264.99	TYRNOS A TROLLING LITE ALPS heavy duty guides with SIC linings Full Carbon + HPC + Biofibre Pacific Bay aluminium heavy duty reel seat Pac Bay aluminium gimbal Ergonomic shaped EVA front grip 6lb, 12lb, 16lb & 20lb 4 Models from £154.99	CATANA CX TROLLING LITE Seaguide XRES guides Full Carbon blank with lightweight fast action Pac Bay aluminium reel seat EVA profiled grips with aluminium gimbal 6lb, 12lb, 16lb & 20lb 4 Models from £59.99
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SHIMANO STAND-UP BOAT RODS

NEW TIAGRA XTRA STAND-UP TROLLING
1.75m - 30lb..... £309.99
1.73m - 50lb Bent Butt..... £379.99
1.6m - 80lb Bent Butt..... £474.99

TIAGRA HYPER STAND-UP RRP NOW 1.75m - 30lb..... £359.99 £329.99 1.73m - 50lb Bent Butt..... £379.99 £349.99 1.6m - 80lb Bent Butt..... £474.99 £439.99	TIAGRA ULTRA GAME STAND-UP RRP NOW 5'5" - 30lb - 50lb..... £589.99 5'5" - 50lb - 80lb..... £589.99	TIAGRA LTD EDITION ULTRA A STAND-UP RRP NOW 5'5" - 30lb - 50lb..... £669.99 5'5" - 50lb - 80lb..... £669.99
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SHIMANO BOAT RODS

OCEA SPINNING/PLUGGER FLEX RODS
Ocea 88 Bluefin Spinning Rod - 2.25m - 2 Piece..... £279.99
Ocea Plugger Flex Rod - 8ft 3in - 110g..... £394.99
Ocea Plugger Flex Rod - 8ft 3in - 130g..... £414.99

TECHNIUM SLIM BOAT RODS
7ft 9in - 30-50g Braid - 2 Pce..... £134.99
7ft 11in - 20-30g Braid - 4 Pce..... £134.99
7ft 11in - 20-30g - 4 Pce..... £134.99
8ft 2in - 12-20g Braid - 4 Pce..... £134.99

BLUE ROMANCE ULTRA POWER GAME ROD
8ft - 40-100g - 2 Piece..... £339.99
9ft - 40-100g - 4 Piece..... £354.99
10ft - 40-100g - 4 Piece..... £374.99

SHIMANO STAND-UP BOAT RODS

TYRNOS A STAND-UP RODS RRP NOW 1.65m - 30lb 2 Piece..... £224.99 £199.99 1.65m - 50lb 2 Piece..... £234.99 £209.99 1.65m - 80lb 2 Piece..... £249.99 £234.99	TLD A STAND-UP RODS RRP NOW 1.67m - 20lb 1 Piece..... £114.99 £99.99 1.67m - 30lb Roller 1 Piece..... £189.99 £169.99 1.67m - 50lb Roller 1 Piece..... £194.99 £174.99 1.67m - 80lb Roller 1 Piece..... £194.99 £174.99	VENGEANCE STAND-UP RODS RRP NOW 5'5" - 8lb - 16lb..... £49.99 5'5" - 16lb - 20lb..... £49.99 5'5" - 20lb - 30lb..... £49.99 5'5" - 30lb - 30lb..... £49.99
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SHIMANO BOAT REELS

TEKOTA A 7 Models from £165	TALICA 6 Models from £379	OCEA JIGGER F CUSTOM 4 Models from £399	OCEA JIGGER Silver - 2 Models from £399.99
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SHIMANO BOAT REELS

TYRNOS 6 Models from £169.99	TORIUM AHG 6 Models from £159.99	Charter Special TR LD Special 1000/2000 from £114.99	TR 200G £69.99
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DAIWA BOAT REELS

Saltist Level Wind 3 Models - from £199.99	Saltist Black Gold 5 Models - from £184.99	18 Saltist 5 Models - from £209.99	Saltist LD 4 Models - from £269	16 Saltiga 5 Models - RRP £460 - £725 NOW from £299
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DAIWA AMAZING OFFER ON SALTIGA BOAT REELS

Precision machined one piece aluminium frame. Suitable for all styles of Boat fishing at Home or Abroad.

16 Saltiga 20H Saltwater Multiplier Reel RRP £460 NOW £299	16 Saltiga 40H Saltwater Multiplier Reel RRP £520 NOW £299	16 Saltiga 50H Saltwater Multiplier Reel RRP £520 NOW £299	16 Saltiga 60H Dog Fight Saltwater Multiplier Reel RRP £725 NOW £399
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DAIWA BOAT RODS

Fishing rods suitable for boat trips

Seahunter Z Boat Rods - 2 piece - 4 Models..... from £54.99	Saltist Boat Rods - 2 piece - 3 Models..... from £139.99	Tournament Boat Rods - 2 piece - 5 Models..... RRP £185 from £149	Kenzaki Boat Rods - 2, 3 & 4 piece - 13 Models from £129.99	Saltiga Boat Rods - 2 piece - 10 Models..... from £199.99
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DAIWA 4, 5 & 6 PIECE TRAVEL RODS

- HVF
- X45
- 3DX
- V-Joint
- Fuji "O" Ring Guides
- Multi Section assembly for compact pack down
- Rubber Gimbal

Saltist 4 & 5 Piece Travel Spin Rods RRP NOW 6ft 5in - 28-84g 4 Piece..... £175 £149.99 7ft - 14-42g 4 Piece..... £185 £159.99 8ft - 14-42g 5 Piece..... £195 £169.99 8ft 6in - 80-140g 5 Piece..... £205 £179.99	Tournament 4 Piece Travel Boat Rods RRP NOW 6ft 6in - 30-60lb 4 Piece..... £205 £179.99 7ft 6in - 15-25lb or 25-40lb 4 Piece..... £205 £179.99
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Seahunter Z Bass Travel Rod - 6 Piece
11ft - 2-4oz 6 Piece..... RRP £85 £74.99

SAVAGE GEAR BASS LURES

Working with Henry Gilbey, Savage have produced an amazing new range of soft plastics. - Read his blog on our website

Gravity Stick Puddletail Bass Lure 14cm 15g - 6pce RRP £9.99 £6.99	Gravity Stick Puddletail Bass Lure 14cm 15g - 6pce RRP £9.99 £6.99	Gravity Stick Pintail Bass Lure 14cm 15g - 6pce RRP £9.99 £6.99
Gravity Stick Kit Includes 30 lures and 17 hooks RRP £34.99 £29.99	Surf Seeker Bass Lure 10cm 30g Sinking RRP £6.69 £5.69	Surf Seeker Bass Lure 10cm 30g RRP £6.99 £5.69

Rattle & Spike Kit
1.9g - 6+6pce
RRP £7.49 £6.49

#6/0 Weedless Hooks
6pce
RRP £6.99 £5.99

#6/0 Weedless Hooks
3g - 4pce
RRP £6.99 £5.99

FINISH LEURRES

Choice of over 100 Finish Lures on our website

BLACK EEL NEW for 2020
Khaki and Cloudy White with 40g lead head

BLACK MINNOW
Khaki, Blue and Gold / Blue 140 and 120 with lead heads of 40g and 25g

We also stock Candy Shrimp, Crazy Paddle Tail, Crazy Sand Eel, Mud Digger, Accessories

see the 4 VIDEOS on our website

FINISH LEURRES

POWER TAIL
MUD DIGGER
CRAZY SHIMP
CRAZY SAND EEL

FINISH LEURRES BLASTER SHAD

A lure dedicated to pike fishing. Equipped with the Player Concept, you can adjust the weight of the head according to your needs and fish in different depths, at different speeds, with several body options on one and the same head. Full details on our website

BLASTER SHAD
13cm - 33g - 43g
16cm - 48g - 58g

Piky Kaki Fire Tiger White Coco Sexy Bream

2 SIZES 13cm or 16cm * 4 COLOURS

PLAYER
ONE HEAD - MANY OPTIONS
MORE STRIKES

BLASTER BODY

Original Quick Clip

see the VIDEOS on our website

FINISH & RELEASE BLACK MINNOW

Anniversary & Limited Editions

Black Minnow 90 9cm Off Shore 10th Anniversary Pack - 10g £20.98	Black Minnow 120 12cm Off Shore 10th Anniversary Pack - 12g £26.46	Black Minnow 120 12cm Combo 12g Off Shore Jig Head, Bioluminescence & 2 Lure Bodies - White Phospho £8.51
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MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

Catch a specimen fish to stand a chance of winning some great line from Sufix

EANCY WINNING SOME QUALITY mono, braid and fluorocarbon from Sufix by catching a great fish? In our catch competition, your target is to catch one over the weight given on our nominated species list. If you do, enter our contest and you automatically stand a chance of winning either our shore or boat bundle.

Each issue we award a superb Sufix package to the captor of the best shore fish and best boat-caught fish, both chosen on merit.

There is no choice of prize which is awarded at our discretion.



Josh Harrison, Cardiff. FISH: 10lb ling.
BAIT: Joey mackerel on a pulley rig.
VENUE: Oban, Scotland. DATE: April 23



Kev Finch, Headcorn, Kent. FISH: 400lb porbeagle shark. BAIT: Mackerel flapper.
VENUE: Fishing from his own boat off Cornwall. DATE: April 18



Finnan Williams, Crumlin, Newport.
FISH: 3lb 4oz spotted ray. BAIT: Bluey and squid on a Pennell pulley rig. VENUE: Porthcawl Pier.
DATE: April 5



Mark Williams, Crumlin, Newport.
FISH: 7lb 4oz small-eyed ray. BAIT: Sandeel and squid on a long and low rig.
VENUE: Porthcawl Pier. DATE: April 5



Kerry Boalch, Plymouth, Devon.
FISH: 2lb 4oz plaice. BAIT: Mackerel on a running leger. VENUE: Private boat at Whitsand Bay, Cornwall. DATE: April 11



Roy Baker, Minster, Kent. **FISH:** 2lb 9oz plaice. **BAIT:** Black lug and herring. **VENUE:** Shoreham, West Sussex. **DATE:** March 31



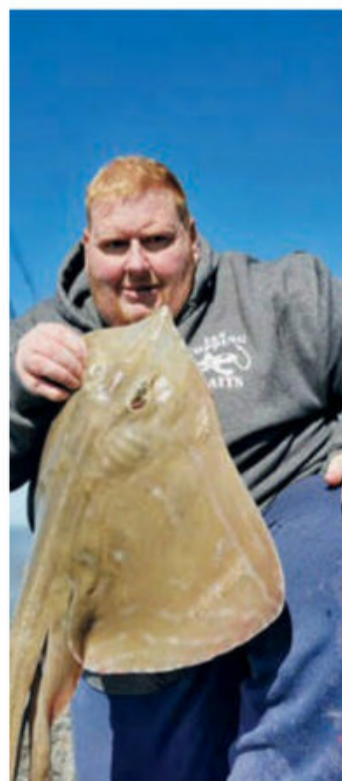
Ryan King, Milton Regis, Kent. **FISH:** 10lb 8oz thornback ray. **BAIT:** Herring and bluey. **VENUE:** Isle of Sheppey. **DATE:** March 27



Kyle Blackmore, Sidmouth, Devon. **Fish:** 2lb 9oz plaice. **BAIT:** Blow lug and rag. **VENUE:** East Devon. **DATE:** April 13



Steven Moffatt, Liverpool. **FISH:** 10lb 9oz thornback ray. **BAIT:** Squid and mackerel on an up and over rig. **VENUE:** River Mersey. **DATE:** April 15



Ian Copping, North Cornelly, Bridgend. **FISH:** 8lb 3oz small-eyed ray. **BAIT:** Squid and crab on a pulley rig. **VENUE:** Ogmore. **DATE:** April 17



Michal Vrbovsky, Morecambe, Lancashire. **FISH:** 54lb tope. **BAIT:** Fresh mackerel. **VENUE:** Size Matters (Kevin McKie), Pwllheli, Gwynedd. **DATE:** April 17

MONTHLY WINNERS:
SHORE: Josh Harrison, Cardiff, 10lb ling
BOAT: Kev Finch, Headcorn, 400lb porbeagle shark



James Bryan, Liverpool, Merseyside.
FISH: 54lb tope. **BAIT:** Fresh mackerel.
VENUE: Size Matters (Kevin McKie), Pwllheli, Gwynedd. **DATE:** April 17



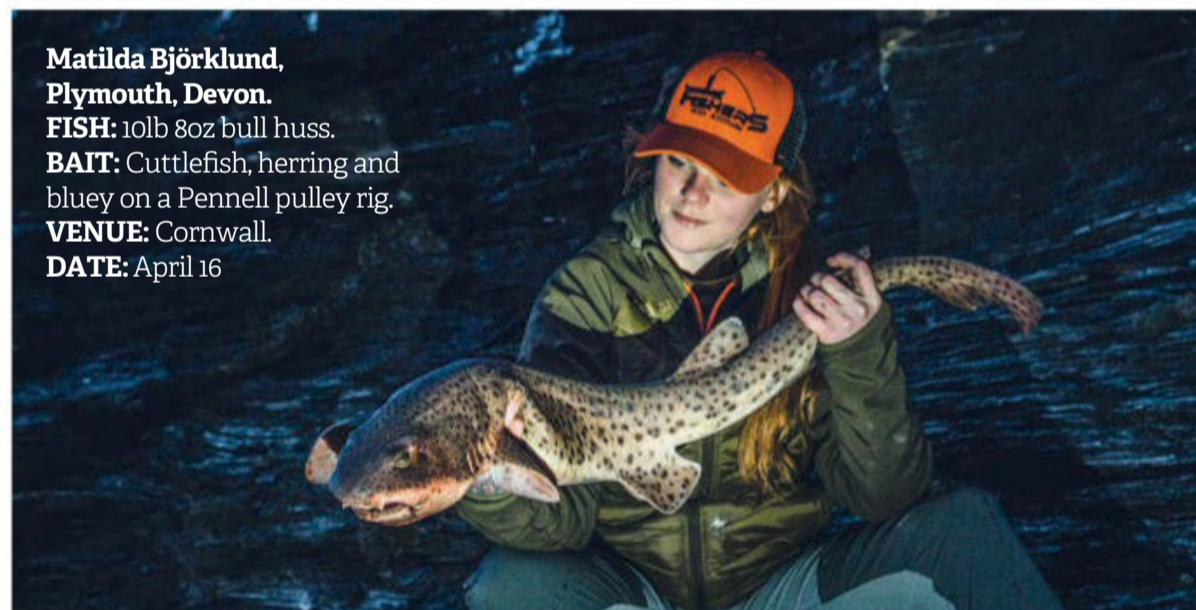
Ken Davies, Crumlin, Newport.
FISH: Small-eyed ray. **BAIT:** Sandeel and squid.
VENUE: Ogmore Deep. **DATE:** April 17



Paul Corlett, Brighton, East Sussex.
FISH: 17lb 10oz blonde ray. **BAIT:** Squid and bluey. **VENUE:** South Wales. **DATE:** April



Mark James, Margam, Port Talbot.
FISH: 9lb 11oz bass.
BAIT: Peeler crab on a running leger.
VENUE: Neath river. **DATE:** April 14



Matilda Björklund, Plymouth, Devon.
FISH: 10lb 8oz bull huss.
BAIT: Cuttlefish, herring and bluey on a Pennell pulley rig.
VENUE: Cornwall. **DATE:** April 16



Declan Vermaat, Kenmare, County Kerry.
FISH: 12lb undulate ray. **BAIT:** Squid and mackerel on a Pennell pulley rig.
VENUE: Fenit, County Kerry. **DATE:** April 13



Joe Koloska, Bridgwater, Somerset.
FISH: 16lb 9oz bull huss. **BAIT:** Squid and bluey wrap. **VENUE:** Lorna Doone (Tom Wright), Watchet, Somerset. **DATE:** April



Maria Edwards, Porthcawl, Bridgend
FISH: 14lb 4oz smoothhound.
BAIT: Peeler crab. **VENUE:** Porthcawl pier. **DATE:** April 18



Liam Davies, Barry, Vale of Glamorgan.
FISH: 17lb smoothhound. **BAIT:** Crab on a pulley rig. **VENUE:** Porthkerry, Vale of Glamorgan.
DATE: April 20



Steve Gumbleton, Wells, Somerset.
FISH: 23lb pollack. **BAIT:** 200g Maxel Dragonfly jig. **VENUE:** Silver Halo (Matt Forrester), Torquay, Devon. **DATE:** April 17



Anthony Brown, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire. **FISH:** 11lb 8oz bull huss.
BAIT: Whole mackerel on a Pennell pulley rig.
VENUE: Pembrokeshire. **DATE:** April 20



Ash Groundsell, East Cowes, Isle of Wight. **FISH:** 35lb 8oz tope. **BAIT:** Mackerel.
VENUE: Devocean (Kev Sampson), Yarmouth.
DATE: April 20

TARGET HITTERS!

BASS BOAT

- Luke McKell, Holbury, 10-0*, Isle of Wight, May 1

BASS SHORE

- Evie Gallagher, Hooe, 8-13*, Plymouth, April 8
- Mark James, Margam, 9-11*, Neath river, April 14
- Daniel Jones, Trebanog, 10-0*, Sker Rocks, April 25
- Harry Templeman, Newton Abbot, 8-6*, Bristol Channel, April 17

BULL HUSS BOAT

- Sean Jackson, Silsden, 14-0*, Fleetwood, April 19
- Joe Koloska, Bridgwater, 16-9*, Watchet, April 17
- Kev Madeley, Paignton, 11-9*, Torbay, April 24
- Kevin Marples, Leeds, 12lb*, Pwllheli, April 25

BULL HUSS SHORE

- Matilda Björklund, Plymouth, 10-8*, Cornwall, April 16
- Anthony Brown, Haverfordwest, 11-8* & 11-11*, Pembrokeshire, April 20

COD BOAT

- Paul Soames, Claydon, 14-8, Felixstowe, April 18

COMMON SKATE BOAT

- David McMillan, Unst, 187lb*, Shetland, April 25

COMMON SKATE SHORE

- Mark James, Holyhead, 120-0*, NW Scotland, May 4

FLATFISH SHORE

- Roy Barker, Minster, 2-9 plaice, Shoreham, March 31
- Kyle Blackmore, Sidmouth, 2-9 plaice*, East Devon, April 13
- Kerry Boalch, Plymouth, 2-4 plaice, Whitsand Bay, April 11
- Lewis Chalmers Wood, Barnstaple, 2-12 plaice*, Devon, May 2
- Jonathan Charlton, Whitehaven, 2-10 plaice*, Whitehaven pier, April 29
- Will Constance, Chilbolton, 2-0 plaice*, Chesil Beach, April 17
- Wayne Lord, Kirkcudbright, 2-7-8 plaice, Carsethorn, April 18

LING SHORE

- Josh Harrison, Cardiff, 10-0*, Oban, April 23

POLLACK BOAT

- Danny Barron, Wells, 12-0*, Torquay, April 17
- Steve Gumbleton, Wells, 23-0*, Torquay, April 17
- Charlie Pole, Wells, 15-0*, Torquay, April 17

POLLACK SHORE

- Curtis Miller, Barry, 8-1*, Barry docks, April 24

RAY BOAT

- Zak Chambers, Medway, 17-0 thornback*, Ramsgate, May 2
- Dave Lee, Camberley, 16-4 undulate*, Littlehampton, May 2
- Steve Smith, Coventry, 12-1 small-eyed*, Minehead, April 11
- Garry Willis, Eastbourne, 25-0 blonde* Beesands, April 20

- Russ Wilshire, Newport, 11-0 small-eyed, Penarth, April 30

RAY SHORE

- Ian Copping, North Cornelly, 8-3 small-eyed, Ogmere, April 17
- Paul Corlett, Brighton, 17-10 blonde*, South Wales, April
- Eddie Crozier, Redcar, 10-10 thornback*, Silloth, April 29
- Ken Davies, Crumlin, 8-0 small-eyed*, Ogmere Deeps, April 17
- Ian French, Yeovil, 10-13 small-eyed*, Minehead, April 29
- Ash Groundsell, East Cowes, 35-8 tope*, Isle of Wight, April 20
- Ryan King, Milton Regis, 10-8 thornback*, Isle of Sheppey, March 27
- Simon Merrett, Freshwater, 14-0 undulate* & 7-0 small-eyed*, Isle of Wight, April 30
- Steven Moffatt, Liverpool, 10-9 thornback*, River Mersey, April 15
- Jake Pickering, Clacton, 9-0 plus*, Walton pier, April 17/18
- Mark Scott, Workington, 11-7 thornback*, Silloth, April 26
- Brad Smart, Bognor Regis, 12-0* undulate, Bognor Regis, April 29
- Paul Taylor, Port Talbot, 10-6 thornback*, Burry Port, April 25
- Declan Vermaat, Kenmare, 12-0 undulate*, Fenit, April 13
- Finnan Williams, Crumlin, 3-4 spotted*, Porthcawl Pier, April 5
- Mark Williams, Crumlin, 7-4 small-eyed*, Porthcawl Pier, April 5

SHARK BOAT

- James Bryan, Liverpool, 51-0 tope*, Pwllheli, April 17
- Ian Copping, North Cornelly, Penarth, May 2
- Joshua Cotton, Freshwater, 16-0 spurdog*, Isle of Wight, April 17
- Kev Finch, Headcorn, 400-0 porbeagle*, Cornwall, April 18
- Darren McKell, Holbury, 18-0 smoothhound*, Isle of Wight, May 2
- Tony Smith, Kingsclere, 35-0 tope*, Nab Tower, May 2
- Michal Vrbovsky, Morecambe, 54-0 tope*, Pwllheli, April 17
- David Wright, Aldershot, 15-8 smoothhound*, Littlehampton, April 28

SMOOTHBOUND SHORE

- Liam Davies, Barry, 17-0*, Porthkerry, April 20
- Maria Edwards, Porthcawl, 14-4*, Porthcawl pier, April 18
- Kieran Evans, Swansea, 12-4*, Swansea Pier, April 27
- Kev Finch, Headcorn, 14-0*, Beltinge, May 8
- Luke Thomas, Tumble, 12-0*, Swansea, May 1

MISSION RECORD HOLDERS

BASS

■ **Shore:** 19lb 13oz 8dr

John Locker

■ **Boat:** 19lb 4oz

Wayne Milton

BLACK BREAM

■ **Shore:** 5lb 5oz 1dr

C Le Monnier

■ **Boat:** 6lb 6oz

Tony Heart

COUCH'S BREAM

■ **Shore:** 2lb 15oz 1dr

Lynton Carre

■ **Boat:** 7lb Becky

Lee Hodges

GILTHEAD BREAM

■ **Shore:** 9lb 8oz

Scott Smy

■ **Boat:** 10lb 2oz

Roger Simcox

PANDORA'S BREAM

■ **Shore:** 1lb 2oz

Baz Wheeler

RAY'S BREAM

■ **Shore:** 6lb 1oz

Jordan Colwell

RED BREAM

■ **Boat:** 6lb 4oz

Patrick Meegan

BRILL

■ **Shore:** 6lb 12oz

Mark Griggs

■ **Boat:** 13lb 10oz

Tony Hayward

BULL HUSS

■ **Shore:** 21lb 9oz

M Urquhart

■ **Boat:** 23lb

D Nicholson

BALLAN WRASSE

■ **Shore:** 9lb 4oz

Darren Swift

■ **Boat:** 9lb

Glen Carter

CUCKOO WRASSE

■ **Shore:** 1lb 13oz

Joe Edward

■ **Boat:** 2lb 4oz

D Glendenning

COD

■ **Shore:** 32lb

Adrian Lloyd

■ **Boat:** 43lb 9oz

Chris Proctor

CONGER EEL

■ **Shore:** 66lb 8oz

Andy Eke

■ **Boat:** 109lb 8oz

Roger Beer

DAB

■ **Shore:** 2lb 4oz 12dr

Jason Tucker

■ **Boat:** 1lb 15oz

Sean McCaffrey

DOVER SOLE

■ **Shore:** 5lb 5oz

Phil Troke

■ **Boat:** 4lb 6oz

M Le-Moignan

FLOUNDER

■ **Shore:** 4lb 14oz 8dr

Paul Blehs

■ **Boat:** 5lb 3oz 14dr

Philip Dawson

HALIBUT

■ **Boat:** 56lb 12oz

Peter Strickson

LEMON SOLE

■ **Boat:** 3lb 3oz

G Newcombe

MEGRIM

■ **Boat:** 2lb 14oz

Philip Lewis

PLAICE

■ **Shore:** 6lb 11oz

Martin Coates

■ **Boat:** 8lb 0oz 8dr

M Mowbray

LING

■ **Shore:** 18lb 11oz

Ross McKay

■ **Boat:** 88lb 6oz 8dr

Gareth Laurenson

GOLDEN GREY MULLET

■ **Shore:** 3lb 8oz 8dr

D Woolcombe

■ **Boat:** 4lb 11oz

Stephan Martini

MULLET

■ **Shore:** 11lb 8oz

Glenn Lane

■ **Boat:** 11lb

Chris Harris

POLLACK

■ **Shore:** 18lb 4oz

Chris Griffin

■ **Boat:** 27lb 1oz

Barry James

BLONDE RAY

■ **Shore:** 31lb

Gary Tucker

■ **Boat:** 39lb 10oz

S Underwood

COMMON SKATE

■ **Shore:** 232lb

Lew Marsden

■ **Boat:** 249lb

Hans Dykman

CUCKOO RAY

■ **Shore:** 4lb 11oz

Kevin Hughes

■ **Boat:** 5lb 8oz

L Longmore

EAGLE RAY

■ **Shore:** 102lb

Ray Lewis

ELECTRIC RAY

■ **Boat:** 52lb

Chris Wood

MARBLED RAY

■ **Shore:** 11lb 1oz 5dr

Pierre Garrick

■ **Boat:** 21lb 7oz 12dr

David Bree

SMALL-EYED RAY

■ **Shore:** 17lb 8oz

M Robertson

■ **Boat:** 21lb

Dave Lynes

SPOTTED RAY

■ **Shore:** 7lb 14oz

Liam Warder

■ **Boat:** 8lb 4oz

Neil Buckett

STINGRAY

■ **Shore:** 75lb 4oz

Ed Spring

■ **Boat:** 69lb 8oz

John Styles

THORNBACK RAY

■ **Shore:** 22lb 11oz 10dr

Mike Johnson

■ **Boat:** 24lb 11oz

Gary Mewdell

UNDULATE RAY

■ **Shore:** 20lb 1oz

Steve Harder

■ **Boat:** 25lb 2oz

Scott Russell

ANGEL SHARK

■ **Boat:** 54lb

John Johnson

BLUE SHARK

■ **Boat:** 253lb

James Fellows

MAKO SHARK

■ **Shore:** 194lb 4oz

Andrew Griffith

PORBEAGLE SHARK

■ **Boat:** 484lb 8oz

Chris Bett

THRESHER SHARK

■ **Boat:** 350lb

Bob Smith

SMOOTHOUND

■ **Shore:** 28lb 10oz

Steve Cullen

■ **Boat:** 30lb

Trevor Knight

SPURDOG

■ **Shore:** 18lb 14oz

William Roche

■ **Boat:** 27lb 3oz

Paul Westaway

TOPE

■ **Shore:** 66lb 10oz

Michael Bell

■ **Boat:** 86lb

David Cook

TORSK

■ **Shore:** 9lb 5oz

Tommy Fraser

TURBOT

■ **Shore:** 20lb 2oz

Eddy Barham

■ **Boat:** 32lb 1oz

Steve Scally

WHITE SKATE

■ **Boat:** 160lb

Pete Hammersley

Sean Jackson, Silsden, West Yorkshire.

FISH: 14lb bull huss. **BAIT:** Black lugworms. **VENUE:** Blue Mink (Andy Bradbury), Fleetwood, Lancs. **DATE:** April 19



Paul Soames, Claydon, Suffolk. **FISH:** 14lb 8oz cod. **BAIT:** Whole squid on a running leger. **VENUE:** Dawn Raider (Garry Wicks), Felixstowe, Suffolk. **DATE:** April 18



Harry Templeman, Newton Abbot, Devon. **FISH:** 8lb 6oz bass. **BAIT:** Crab on a running leger. **VENUE:** Bristol Channel shore mark. **DATE:** April 17



Paul Taylor, Port Talbot. **FISH:** 10lb 6oz thornback ray. **BAIT:** Squid. **VENUE:** North Channel, Burry Port. **DATE:** April 25



David McMillan, Unst, Shetland Islands. **FISH:** 187lb common skate. **BAIT:** Mackerel and bluey. **VENUE:** Boat fishing on west side of Shetland. **DATE:** April 25



Curtis Miller, Barry, Vale of Glamorgan
FISH: 8lb 10oz pollack. **BAIT:** White Sidewinder lure. **VENUE:** Barry docks. **DATE:** April 24



Kevin Marples, Leeds, West Yorkshire.
FISH: 12lb bull huss. **BAIT:** Mackerel
VENUE: Size Matters (Kevin McKie), Pwllheli, Gwynedd. **DATE:** April 25



Daniel Jones, Trebanog, Rhondda.
FISH: 10lb bass. **BAIT:** Squid on a Pennell pulley rig. **VENUE:** Sker Rocks, Bridgend. **DATE:** April 25



Wayne Lord, Kirkcudbright, Dumfries & Galloway.
FISH: 2lb 7oz 8dr plaice.
BAIT: Black lug on an up and over rig.
VENUE: Carsethorn.
DATE: April 18



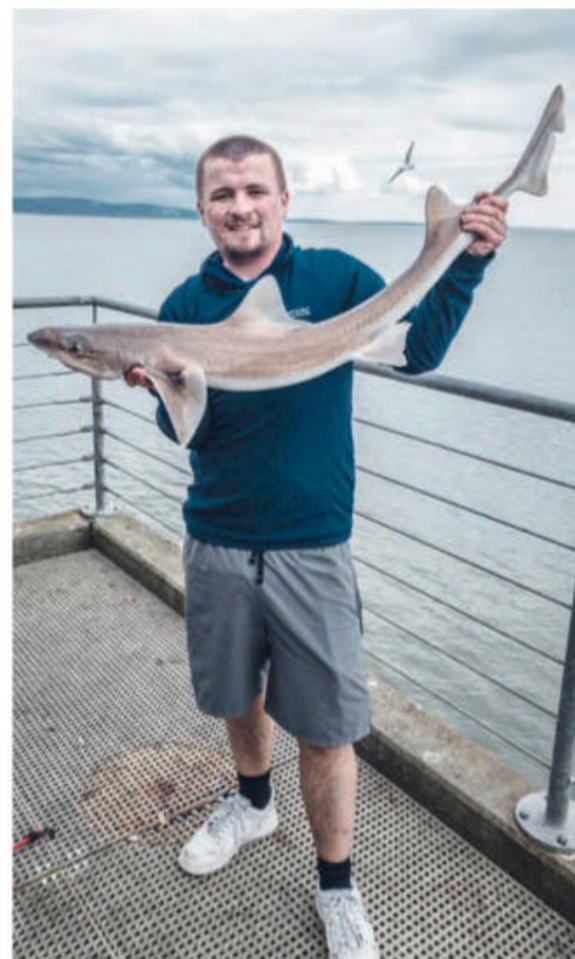
Mark Scott, Workington, Cumbria.
FISH: Seven thornback rays to 11lb 7oz.
BAIT: Squid and bluey or launce on a pulley dropper rig. **VENUE:** Silloth. **DATE:** April 26



Jonathan Charlton, Whitehaven, Cumbria.
FISH: 2lb 10oz plaice. **BAIT:** Lug and rag on a two-hook flapper rig. **VENUE:** Whitehaven pier. **DATE:** April 29.



Tony Smith, Kingsclere, Hampshire. **FISH:** 35lb tope. **BAIT:** Float-fished live mackerel. **VENUE:** Small-boat fishing near Nab Tower, Isle of Wight. **DATE:** May 2



Luke Thomas, Tumble, Carmarthenshire. **FISH:** 12lb smoothhound. **BAIT:** Bluey and squid on an up and over rig. **VENUE:** Swansea. **DATE:** May 1



David Wright, Aldershot, Hampshire. **FISH:** 15lb 8oz smoothhound. **BAIT:** Crab on a flowing trace. **VENUE:** Lynander (Dickie Leggett), Littlehampton, West Sussex. **DATE:** April 28



Zak Chambers, Medway, Kent. **FISH:** 17lb thornback ray. **BAIT:** Half a bluey. **VENUE:** Skerry Belle (Roger Lennon), Ramsgate. **DATE:** May 2



Garry Willis, Eastbourne, East Sussex. **FISH:** 25lb blonde ray. **BAIT:** Launce. **VENUE:** Kayak fishing off Beesands, Devon. **DATE:** April 20



Lewis Chalmers Wood, Barnstaple, North Devon. **FISH:** 2lb 12oz plaice. **BAIT:** Ragworm and squid on an up and over rig. **VENUE:** Devon. **DATE:** May 2.



Kev Madeley, Paignton, Devon. **FISH:** 10lb 12oz & 11lb 9oz bull huss. **BAIT:** Mackerel and squid. **VENUE:** Torbay area. **DATE:** April 24



Mark James, Holyhead, Anglesey.
FISH: 120lb common skate. **BAIT:** Half a pollack. **VENUE:** North west of Scotland. **DATE:** May 4

HOW TO ENTER

Entry by email only to sa.ed@kelsey.co.uk

Please supply these details: angler's name, age, address, telephone number, email, type of fish, weight of fish, where caught, date caught, bait/rig, whether caught from shore or boat, if from charter boat, give name of boat, port and skipper. Please state if the fish was retained or returned.

YOUR MISSION TARGETS...

Catch a fish on this list at the weight or above in your region to qualify for the chance to win prizes in our Mission catch competition.

To enter, send us the details requested on the entry form (left) and email that information and your picture to sa.ed@kelsey.co.uk

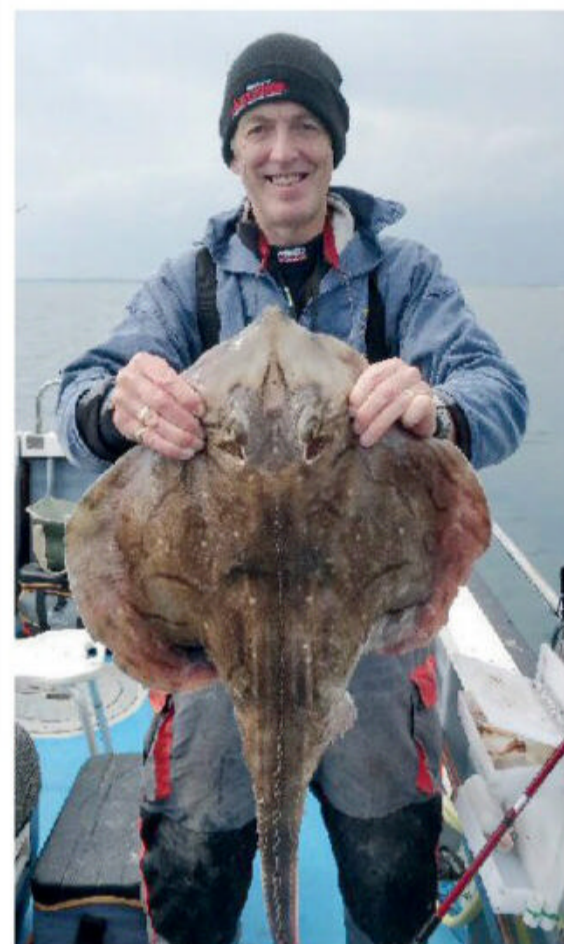
	SHORE	BOAT
Bass	7lb	9lb
Black bream	2lb	3lb
Red bream	2lb	3lb
Couch's & Pandora's bream	1lb 8oz	1lb 8oz
Gilthead bream	4lb	4lb
Ray's bream	3lb	3lb
Brill	3lb	5lb
Bull huss	8lb	12lb
Cod	7lb	10lb
Conger	20lb	40lb
Dab & megrim	1lb	1lb
Dover/lemon sole	2lb	2lb
Flounder	2lb	2lb
Ling	5lb	19lb
Mullet	4lb	5lb
Golden grey mullet	2lb	2lb
Plaice	2lb	4lb
Pollack/coalfish	6lb	12lb
Common skate	60lb	100lb
Blonde ray	12lb	17lb
Thornback ray	9lb	14lb
Small-eyed/undulate	7lb	11lb
Ray (other)	3lb	5lb
Sting/eagle ray	20lb	25lb
Smoothhound	10lb	14lb
Spurdog	7lb	11lb
Tope	27lb	35lb
Trigger fish	2lb	3lb
Turbot	10lb	13lb
Wrasse (ballan)	4lb	4lb
Wrasse (other)	1lb	1lb
Blue shark	-	60lb
Porbeagle/thresher	-	100lb

Send us your entries and win some great prizes

■ The winner of the shore category will receive three spools of Tritanium 0.35mm mono, three spools of 80lb Zippy Shockleader, two spools of 20lb Advance Fluorocarbon and a single spool of 30lb 131 G-Core Braid, worth £129 in total.



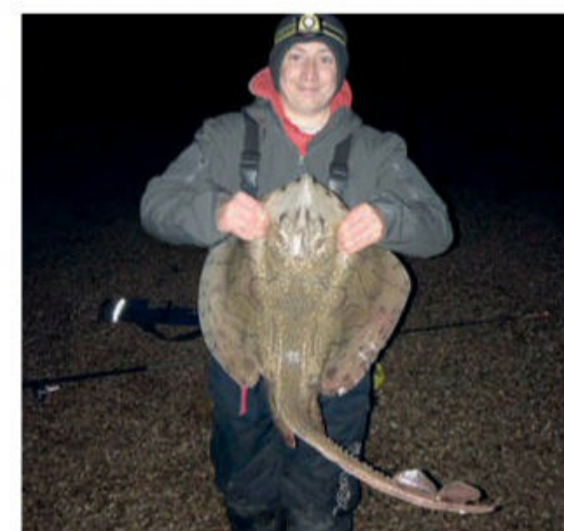
■ The winner of the boat category receives two spools of 50lb Advance Superline Braid and two spools of 80lbs Zippy Shockleader, worth £154 in total.



Dave Lee, Camberley, Surrey. **FISH:** 16lb 4oz undulate ray. **BAIT:** Mackerel and squid on a running leger rig. **VENUE:** Starfish (Steve Hipgrave), Littlehampton, West Sussex. **DATE:** May 2



Ian French, Yeovil, Somerset. **FISH:** 10lb 13oz small-eyed ray. **BAIT:** Sandeel, squid and bluey on a Pennell pulley rig. **VENUE:** Minehead. **DATE:** April 29



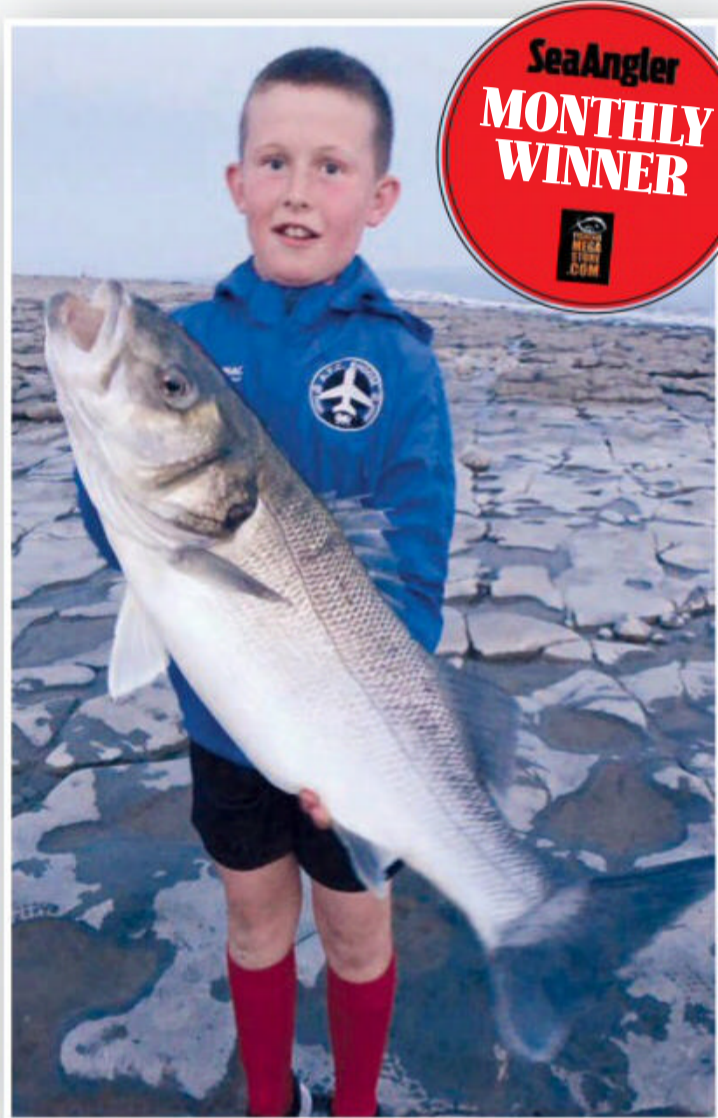
Simon Merrett, Freshwater, Isle of Wight. **FISH:** 14lb undulate ray. **BAIT:** Mackerel. **VENUE:** Isle of Wight. **DATE:** April 30

THE RULES...

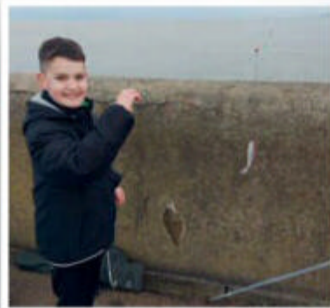
- Only fish caught since May 2021 are eligible. ■ We must see a picture of the fish.
- We may refuse an entry. ■ Enter by email only (please include all of the information requested in How to Enter panel) to sa.ed@kelsey.co.uk
- Prizes as stated (Sufix reserves the right to send alternatives).
- No correspondence will be entered into.

YOUNG RODS

Sea Angler's celebration of the great angling achievements of its younger readers



▲ A whole squid cast only 10 metres produced a superb 14lb 2oz bass for 12-year-old **Harrison Bagnall**, of Rhoose, Vale of Glamorgan. He was fishing with his dad at his local beach and caught the fish as the tide began to flood. The fish was returned.

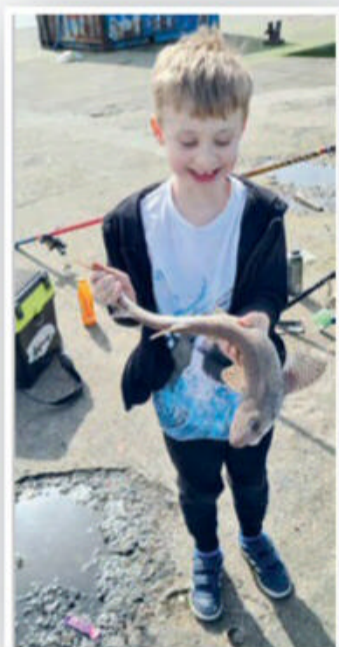


▲ When **Freddie Thurston** went fishing at Lowestoft South Pier, Suffolk, the nine-year-old lad caught a last-cast dab and whiting to finish with 21 fish to his dad Stuart's 20.

► During an evening session with his dad at South Shields Pier, 11-year-old **Logan Roughead**, from Gateshead, Tyne & Wear, caught codling, whiting and dabs.



▲ On her first fishing trip, **Lilly Cauchi**, age 14, from Newport, South Wales, caught a codling on a squid bait, and a rockling on bluey and squid wrap.



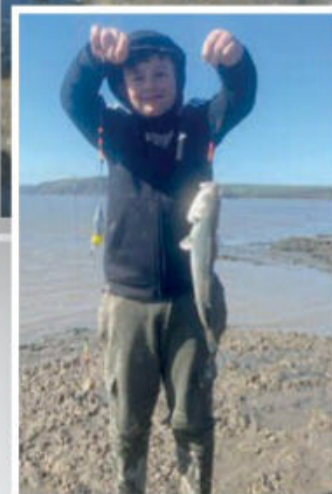
▲ Seven-year-old **Iwan Ward**, from Holyhead, Anglesey, caught his first fish, this doggie, on a two-hook clipped rig baited with mackerel strips while fishing locally.



▲ This 1lb 2oz dogfish was a first catch for nine-year-old **Leon Carter**, from Southampton, Hampshire, who was fishing with his grandad Darren Carter at Calshot.



▲ Thirteen-year-old **Finnan Williams**, from Crumlin, Newport, caught more than 30 flounders to 1lb 9oz during a session at Cefn Sidan.



▲ **Jackson Evans**, five, and **Kyan Evans**, 11, show off their first bass of the year, caught at a mark in Carmarthenshire. The brothers from Swansea used lugworm baits.



◀ Twelve-year-old **Jack Tranter**, from Lancaster, was pleased when he caught dabs and plaice during a low-water session at Heysham. It was even better because he caught more than his dad.



▲ During a charter trip out of Watchet, Somerset, local lad **Tobias Pope**, aged seven, (pictured with his dad) caught a 10lb smoothhound on a squid and bluey bait. He was fishing aboard Tom Wright's Lorna Doone. An earlier trip on the same boat produced a thornback ray and a spotted ray, also on squid and bluey baits.



▲ This whiting was 10-year-old **Freya Wilkinson's** first fish, which she caught locally to her home at Clacton, Essex.



▲ During a short trip with his dad on their boat for an ebb tide session at the Sowley Boom, sixteen-year-old, **Gabriel Crooks**, from Lymington, Hampshire, caught an undulate ray. The trip also produced four school bass, seven dogfish and a smoothhound.



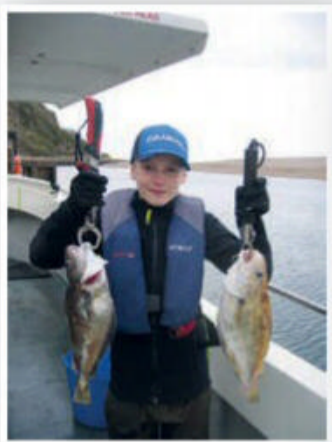
▲ This five-bearded rockling caught by **Tom Harker** was only seven ounces short of the British shore-caught record, set in 1992. The 11-year-old angler from New Milton, Hampshire, caught it on a three-hook clipped rig with size 1 hooks baited with bluey and ragworms, while fishing at Milford on Sea.



▲ **Jacob Kay**, 13, from Guernsey, shows off his first dogfish, which he caught on a two-hook clipped rig baited with the local verm worms.



▲ On his first fishing trip, **Hunter Dodds** caught two flounders and a brace of small codling to beat his grandad Guy Cook by four fish to one. The seven-year-old lad from Newcastle was fishing at the Pottery Bank at Walker on the River Tyne. He used a three-hook flapper rig with size 1 hooks baited with lugworms.



▲ While boat fishing out of Axmouth, Devon, nine-year-old **Adam Egan**, of Sidmouth, caught pouting of 2lb 10oz and 2lb at a wreck in Lyme Bay.



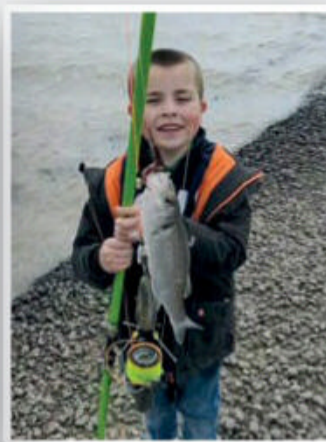
▲ Eight-year-old **Oliver Sagar**, from Leeds, caught this flounder on a peeler crab bait at a mark in North Wales.



▲ **Riley Ryan** and his sister **Lacey**, from Anglesey, got among the school bass during a session fishing with peeler crab baits on the island. During another trip, Riley caught a thornback ray on an up and over rig with size 1/0 hooks baited with squid and ragworm wraps.



▲ Eight-year-old **Jay Stoker**, from New Abbey, Dumfries, caught this 37cm flounder on a pulley rig baited with lug and mackerel while fishing the River Nith at Dumfries. He dug the lug himself the day before the trip.



▲ On the first cast of his debut shore fishing trip, eight-year-old **Finley Cookson** landed this school bass. The lad from Wickford, Essex, used a two-hook flapper rig with size 1 hooks baited with lugworms, while fishing at Burnham on Crouch. The fish was returned.



▲ A prawn bait produced this 2lb codling for 16-year-old **Daniel Norman**, while fishing near his home at Severn Beach, South Gloucestershire.



▲ On his first fishing trip, eight-year-old **Jack Algar** caught this dogfish on a running leger rig. It was also a first trip for Jack and his dad Lee on their boat, when Jack also caught a strap conger and a launce.



▲ Eleven-year-old **Evie Gallagher** caught and released this 8lb 13oz bass while fishing the Plymouth estuary foreshore. She fished a running leger with a three-ounce weight and 20lb hooklength with a size 2/0 hook baited with a whole peeler crab

Evie, from Hooe, who is a member of the local Rod Benders club, said: "I had a bite and stuck it. I could feel a fish pulling on the line, then all of a sudden the line went slack and I thought I had lost it. Grandad told me to keep winding because the fish might be swimming towards me. This is what I did and my dad was down on the water's edge to land it. I was very surprised to see it was a good bass and the biggest I have ever seen."

£25 TACKLE VOUCHER WINNERS



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BOAT ANGLER

23 PAGES OF ADVICE, TIPS AND TACTICS FOR FISHING AFLOAT

FROM ANGLER TO SKIPPER

Words by
KEVIN
MCKIE



In final episode of his three-part series, Kevin McKie reveals how he has pushed charter fishing to the limit after taking the helm of Size Matters

OUT OF THE BLUE IN APRIL 2015, Graham Hannaford phoned me to say he was thinking about retiring and would love to sell me his charter boat Size Matters. I was over the moon, but didn't have the money. I needed to come up with a plan...and fast.

It was agreed that Graham would finish off his summer season in Plymouth, wouldn't use the boat in the winter and would maintain it until March 2016. This gave me 11 months to save every penny I could and allowed plenty of time to sell my first charter boat, Brigand, based at Liverpool.

Luckily, the second person who come to view her bought it and let me keep it until I purchased Size Matters.

During the intervening period I never thought I would save enough money. Graham told me to stick with the plan and see where we

were in February. Thankfully I listened, saved as much as possible, sold my boat and got a large bank loan to pay for Size Matters. However, I still worried that it would be a massive failure.

Graham suggested I did not tell anyone I had purchased Size Matters, but instead tell them I was working for him as skipper. Most of his customers had been fishing with Graham for 20 to 35 years, so his idea would give me time to

prove I could put them on fish.

It was March 16, 2016 when I took the helm of Size Matters and it was the first I had been on with fly-by-wire controls, very different from the standard cables on most charter boats. For the first two months, Graham come out with me explaining where and how to fish and where the fish tend to move through at different times of the year. Every day I wrote

**Kevin's boat
Size Matters**



notes of every catch, every mark, state of tide and weather. This became the key to learning my trade in Plymouth. Graham was old school and still used Decca numbers, as did most of the local skippers. To me this was an alien language. After a few months Graham stayed on shore and I did all the charters on my own, trying to prove I had what it takes to produce the goods day in and day out for Graham's anglers.

As the summer approached we started to do conger fishing charters and Graham came out a few times to teach me how to anchor at a deep water wreck. It is a true art form and the skipper has to be on the ball, especially in less than perfect conditions. For me, being able to anchor precisely on a small wreck or reef in very deep water is the difference between a good skipper and top skipper.

The only way to learn is by making mistakes and understanding where you went wrong and rectifying your mistakes. One of the best things I learned from Graham was how to shear off on the cleats. Graham had fitted three down each side of the wheelhouse to the bow, which gave a range of 120 feet port or starboard to shear the boat while at anchor. Size Matters is 15 tonnes with a deep keel, which is perfect for anchoring in the tide and made anchoring small wrecks and reefs much easier.

As the first summer come to an end in Plymouth, it had been very successful even though I was still finding my feet. I remember steaming back to Liverpool for the winter season and thinking that for next year I needed a way to stand out and be noticed. As I started my winter charters in my home city, all the anglers who had never been on Size Matters before loved the amount of space and large heated wheelhouse.

FIRST TUNA

When I returned to Plymouth in March 2017 for the summer season, I offered 23-hour trips sharking and wrecking, which were very popular. I may have been the only skipper doing them on the South Coast.

Being under a lot of pressure to keep money coming in to pay all the bills and the running costs, I needed to be working all the time to make a profit. I quickly realised there was thousands of anglers in the UK who had not caught a 10lb pollack, 20lb ling or a 50lb conger for example, so I produced regular reports on social media which proved essential to keep my boat fully booked.

In July 2017 on a shark fishing trip with my friends, Barry Jackson, Bernie Forshaw, Tony McQuillen and Glyn Jones, we caught the first bluefin tuna from Devon. It was 79 inches long and estimated at 300lb. What unfolded that day would stay with us all for life because it was a true team effort. I had caught bluefins to 850lb in Canada, but the skipper did most of the work chasing it in the boat while I was in a fighting chair getting as much line on the reel as possible. To catch one on your own boat in the UK was an achievement, especially with only a small butt pad and no stand-up harness. This got me thinking about catching as many different species as possible over 100lb in the



This 300lb bluefin tuna was the first recorded on rod and line from Devon



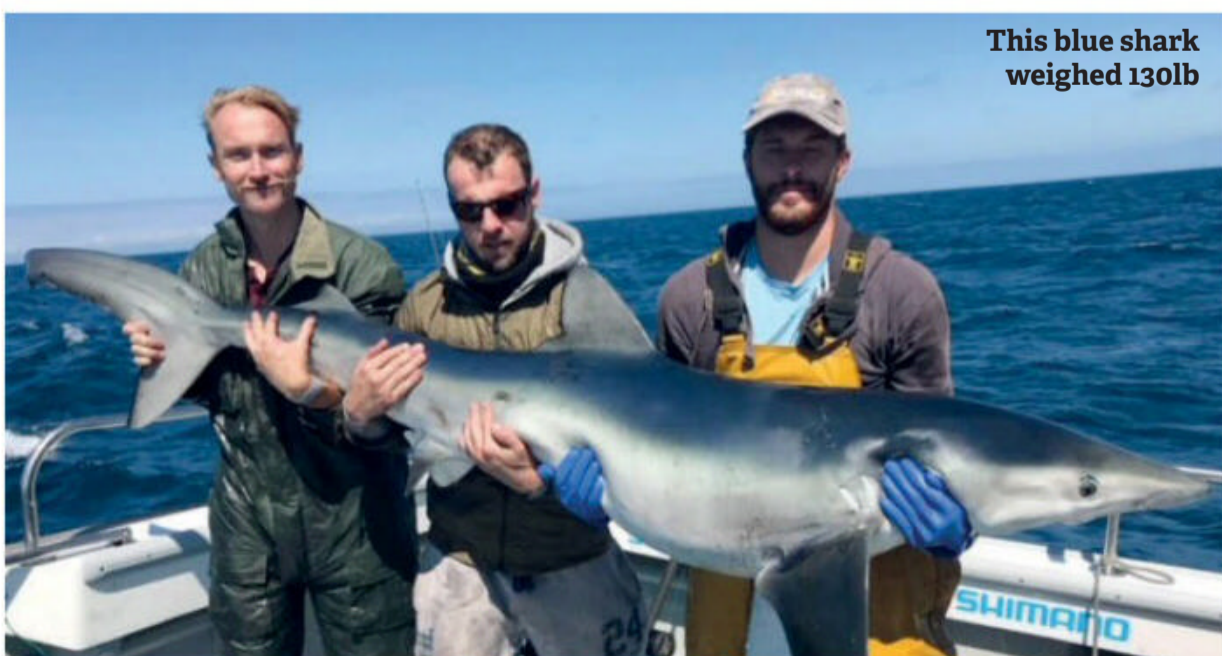
Time spent in Scotland produced superb skate like this one weighing 232lb



This blue skate is an unofficial British record



Another 100lb-plus fish, a 160lb white skate which smashed the British record



This blue shark weighed 130lb



A 300lb porbeagle shark at the side of the boat

BIG CHALLENGE

On my way to Plymouth from Scotland in 2018, I contacted a skipper on the South Coast who catches very big porbeagle sharks in the spring. I told him about my plan to catch as many species over 100lb and said on my way back to Plymouth I would try the area he fished. He wasn't too keen on the idea at first. We struck a deal that I would move on as soon as one was caught. Under no circumstances could I bring the fish on the deck.

After a very long steam we arrived at the area, but my skipper friend said the water was too cloudy and we would struggle. I set the first drift up and got a feeling for what was going on. Before I set up the second drift, I changed my rigs to something I used in South Africa when the sharks were being very finicky.

I set up the second drift and my mate Phil Riley was into a good shark, a lovely porbeagle of 280-300lb. I really wanted a photo of it on deck but I had to honour the agreement. I called my friend in his boat and told him what we had caught it and would steam on to Plymouth. That was the fifth species weighing over 100lb on the boat.

Around May 2018, purely by chance, I bumped into Pat Jones, one of Graham's old crewmen and mentioned I was challenging myself to get as many species over 100lb in the UK. He suggested that if I was willing to travel anywhere, I should go right out into the Western Approaches where there were hundreds of six-gill sharks. He'd seem them while working on the deep-water commercial hake boats out of Newlyn. A few days later he gave me some locations and sent some amazing photographs of six-gill sharks eating

UK, so I looked into different areas that could produce such fish. So far we had blue sharks to 130lb and tuna to 300lb, but I needed to start ticking a few more large species off the list. For two years I tried to get out on a skate charter in Scotland but bad weather and a seven-hour traffic jam ruined my chances. In the spring of 2018 I decided to take my boat to Scotland in an effort to catch my first common skate.

The first day's charter produced a blank because the conditions were terrible and there were too many spurdogs. The next day I tried a different area and we landed 12 skate to 180lb, which upset one of the local skippers who suggested we were fishing his mark. I studied all the GPS charts within 80 miles of our port, Craobh Haven, to find the right terrain for skate and each day we fished different areas, weather permitting, to gain as much knowledge as possible.

This was the key to rewriting the book on how to fish for skate. We went on to catch common skate to 232lb, including up to 37 in one day, along with the first white skate in Scotland and it smashed the UK record. We got the first blue skate recorded in Scotland too, which proved if you keep trying new areas and gaining as much knowledge as possible the rewards can be truly massive. Soon it was time to return to Plymouth for the summer.

This 513lb six gill shark is also an unofficial British record





John Owen's
150lb thresher

a porbeagle that got caught in the hake nets. I wanted to go as soon as possible but did not have any dates available until August because I was fully booked.

I got on the phone to Phil, Riley, John Owen and Sea Angler contributor Dave Lewis to tell them about my plans to do the trip in August. Even Pat wanted to come to crew.



ON THE SHELF

August couldn't come quick enough for me, but eventually we left in the evening from Plymouth and arrived the next morning. The first fish was not a shark, but a pouting.

Almost three hours later, Phil hooked and landed the first six gill and smashed the UK record. In fact we caught six to 513lb. Phil caught the biggest and it still is the largest shark to be boated, measured and returned in the UK. He also caught a 40lb blue skate that smashed the UK record, making it two UK records by one angler on the same trip. Dave Lewis wrote a five-page article in Sea Angler magazine, which also featured a photo from the trip on its front cover.

During October we got lucky again catching several bluefin tuna to 400lb while shark fishing. One of the days we caught and released two. There were hundreds out there at times and the sharks didn't stand a chance of getting to the baits.

In June 2019 I managed to get back out to the six gill sharks and we caught 12 to more than 500lb. We also planned to go to the Continental Shelf to try for a broadbill swordfish, but sadly the weather was terrible. We had a Plan B to try for a thresher shark in an area where a few get caught each year.

On the first day Phil hooked one that looked about 250lb when it jumped out the water and shed the hook. The next day I was fishing before it was first light and hooked a thresher of about 110lb. Phil was up next and he hooked another thresher about 230lb and again it pulled the hook. He was gutted, but we worked out where we were going wrong, so we tried something new.

About an hour passed and John caught the next thresher, weighing 150lb, before Tony hooked a baby one about 60lb. That was three

theshers landed and two had pulled the hook. What an experience on our first thresher trip.

In 2020 we had exciting plans for Plymouth in the summer, but Covid-19 intervened. I decided to stay in Liverpool all year, which gave me an opportunity to take a few weeks off and go on holiday on the boat. I took the boat 120 miles west of Ireland to the Continental Shelf.

It was an amazing trip, during which four of us caught albacore tuna, six gill sharks, blue sharks, squid, stone bass, blue whiting, pollack, coalfish, cod and ling. We even caught leafscale gulper sharks to 30lb, the first time they had been recorded on rod and line. There is so little known about them and they could have been world records.

On the way home we fished an area I had been told about by an Irish skipper. It was amazing fishing, producing porbeagle sharks, blue sharks, bluefin tuna to 520lb and we lost a mako.

We accomplished all this by pushing the boundaries of UK charter fishing to the limit. ■

ROLL OF HONOUR

Size Matters is the only UK boat to catch:

■ **7 species over 100lb in UK waters.**

■ **3 unofficial British records – we didn't want to kill those fish to claim the records.**

■ **3 species of tuna in the British Isles including the first bluefin caught on rod and line from Devon in July 2017, the first albacore caught by a UK charter boat, and Atlantic bonito.**

■ **The first Leafscale gulper shark on rod and line in the British Isles, a potential world record.**



SERIAL THRILLERS

Tope fishing rates as one of the most exciting forms of boat fishing in our waters. Give it a try...

ONE OF THE HARDEST-FIGHTING fish caught off the coast of the UK and Ireland, especially when boated on light tackle, the tope is often found at inshore reefs or in large tidal estuaries.

Depending on where you are fishing, the average size of most tope caught afloat is probably between 10-30lb but much bigger specimens are caught in many areas, especially in spring when big females move inshore to give birth. At such times it is possible to catch fish weighing more than 60lb.

Tope are widely distributed, with UK hot spots including The Wash, Thames Estuary, The Solent, the north coast of Cornwall, Bristol Channel, Cardigan Bay, Isle of Man, and Luce Bay in Scotland. Although the majority are caught in very shallow water, at other times they are found in deeper water over relatively featureless ground.

When targeting tope in shallow water, such as within estuaries, uptiding is usually the most effective technique. Boat casting, as it is also

known, ensures that the bait is away from the scare area created by a boat anchored in shallow water. In deeper water, use 20/30lb-class tackle to drop your bait directly over the side of the boat, known as downtiding.

Some anglers use very light tackle, even carp rods, but it is best left to really experienced anglers because light tackle can unnecessarily prolong the fight subjecting the fish to unnecessary stress.

RIG CHOICE

A running leger rig is ideal for this style of fishing. Wire hooklengths used to be standard to prevent bite-offs resulting from a tope's sharp teeth. Few anglers bother with wire now. Instead, charter skippers prefer their crews to use heavy monofilament or fluorocarbon line in the region of 200lb breaking strain. This is less likely to damage fish than wire, which can cut into the tope's gills if a fish gets itself wrapped in the line.

A hooklength of three or four feet is perfect to prevent bite-offs, but a 12ft to 20ft rubbing



Mackerel is top of the list for tope bait



leader of 50lb monofilament is required to guard against the fish's rough skin damaging the line.

Bronze hooks are preferred, ideally barbless. Some fish swallow a bait and the safest way to release these while giving the fish its best chance of recovering is to cut the trace as close to the mouth as possible. Unlike stainless steel or zinc-coated hooks, bronze versions corrode and fall out. Circle hooks are very popular for tope fishing and, when fished correctly, these locate neatly in the corner of the fish's jaw.

BEST BAIT

Tope are a predatory species, so fish baits are the most effective. A freshly caught mackerel takes a lot of beating, especially when prepared as a flapper with the backbone removed.

If mackerel are unavailable, other fish species such as whiting, pouting, herring, launce, garfish, scad, flatfish, small pollack and coalfish can be used.

Like all species of shark, tope can locate baits

from a great distance. Occasionally you catch them immediately, but usually it takes time for tope to locate the scent trail from your bait.

Using bags of chum tied to the side of the boat or chunking with small pieces of bait, exactly the same as when shark fishing further offshore, is effective, but patience is the key to successful tope fishing. By ensuring your bait is as fresh as possible, any tope in the area will locate your baits. Once that happens sport can be fast and furious.

In the past, anglers were advised to let a tope swim off with a bait and wait for it to stop before setting the hook when the fish moved off on its second run. But this resulted in the fish being gut-hooked. If you are using J-hooks, my advice is to set the hook as soon as possible after the run begins, which more often than not will result in the fish being hooked in the jaw.

If you miss the fish, put the reel back into free spool and wait. If there is any bait left on the hook, it might be picked up again. If you are using circle hooks you should never strike, but instead allow the line to tighten slowly to give the hook chance to locate in the corner of the jaw.■

Tope fishing with Ed Schliffke at Padstow

56



A Thames Estuary skipper's view

NEXT ISSUE

We go tope fishing off Pwllheli

TOPE SPECIAL

FIVE GO MAD IN PADSTOW

Dinky the Seagull Whisperer, Bryan, Ed and Pops set off for some tope fishing...and Rosie Brown samples the hectic sport

SITUATED BETWEEN NEWQUAY AND Port Issac and nestling alongside the west bank of the Camel River, the ancient fishing town of Padstow is a popular destination for anglers seeking a variety of species while fishing from either shore or boat.

Offshore beyond the mouth of the river, the seas off North Cornwall teem with life and fishing afloat can bring results with at least 30 different species. Lurking beneath the waves during the summer are tope.

It was an early morning start in late June when we set off on a local charter boat, Emma Kate, skippered by Lee Wicks, to chase the elusive tope. The conditions were perfect – a flat calm sea, little wind and the sun was shining. Duncan 'Dinky' Randall, Bryan Robinson, the skipper's father John ('Pops') Wicks and my step-father Ed Schliffke, owner of Padstow Angling Centre, and myself made up the day's crew.

Bryan and Ed arrived early, just in time to watch Lee bring the Emma Kate into dock.

Fishing rods in hand, they descended the steps to the pontoons and boarded the boat. As always Duncan arrived a few minutes late. With the crew completed it was time to set off.

Lee Wicks has more than 20 years of experience as a professional skipper and fishing from boats, and in the past was Junior Cornish Boat Angling Champion. His boat is a Lochin 38 powered by twin 280hp FPT Iveco turbocharged diesel units, which provide a cruising speed of 15 knots and a sprint speed of 28 knots. The boat offers plenty of stability and



Fixed-grip weights are a good choice



The mono trace and size 8/0 hook

Ed Schliffke
admires his first
tope of the day



maximum sea-keeping abilities.

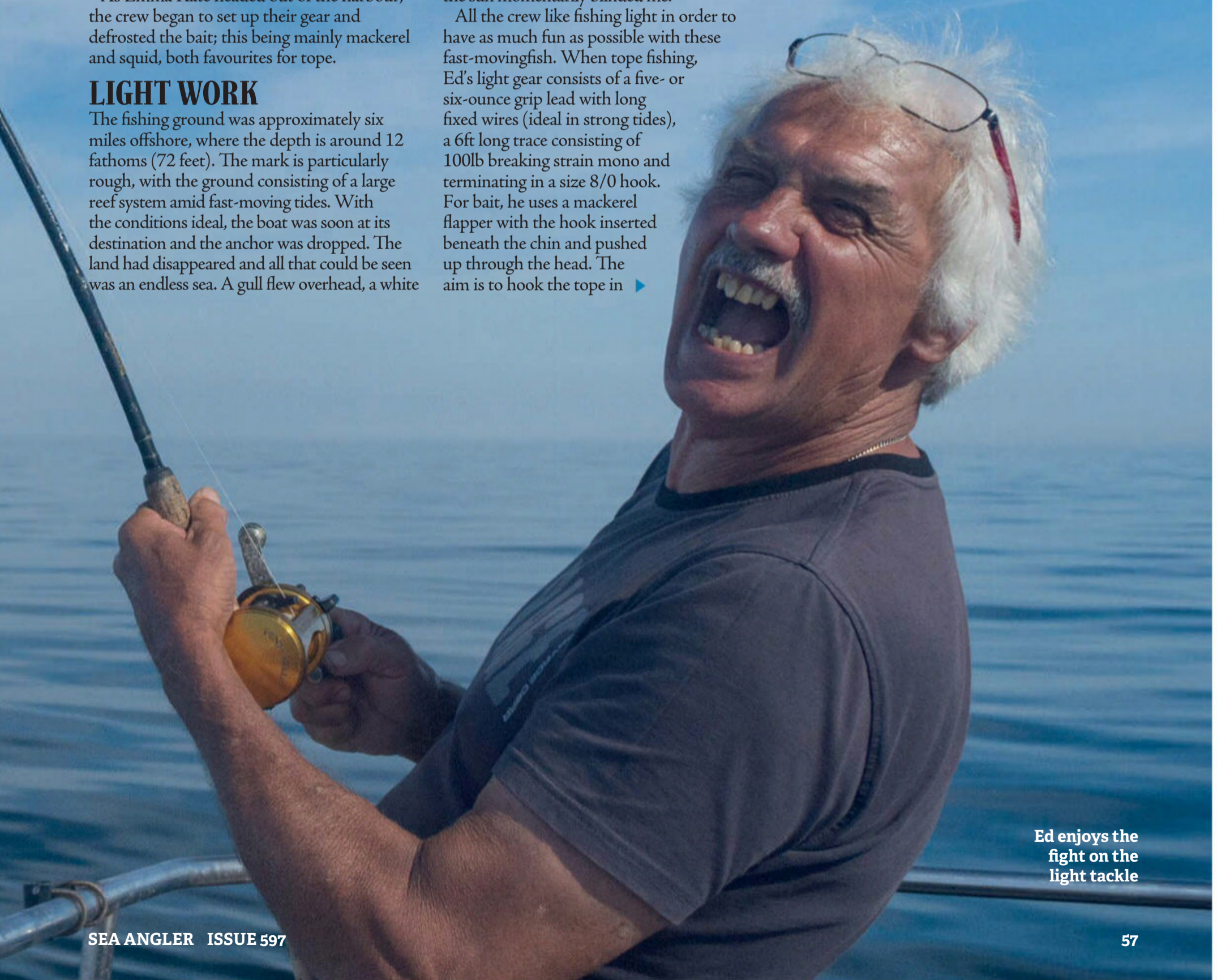
As Emma Kate headed out of the harbour, the crew began to set up their gear and defrosted the bait; this being mainly mackerel and squid, both favourites for tope.

LIGHT WORK

The fishing ground was approximately six miles offshore, where the depth is around 12 fathoms (72 feet). The mark is particularly rough, with the ground consisting of a large reef system amid fast-moving tides. With the conditions ideal, the boat was soon at its destination and the anchor was dropped. The land had disappeared and all that could be seen was an endless sea. A gull flew overhead, a white

speck against the hazy blue sky, and disappeared as the sun momentarily blinded me.

All the crew like fishing light in order to have as much fun as possible with these fast-moving fish. When tope fishing, Ed's light gear consists of a five- or six-ounce grip lead with long fixed wires (ideal in strong tides), a 6ft long trace consisting of 100lb breaking strain mono and terminating in a size 8/0 hook. For bait, he uses a mackerel flapper with the hook inserted beneath the chin and pushed up through the head. The aim is to hook the tope in ►



Ed enjoys the
fight on the
light tackle

the side of the mouth, which happens in the majority of cases.

As he lowered the rig into the water, Ed waited for it to hit the bottom before letting out enough slack line to form a belly of line to enable the lead weight to grip into the reef.

Soon everyone's bait was down. The crew waited as the water lapped softly at the side of the boat, which rocked gently on the water. This was the lull. Typically, in the first half an hour, fishing for tope can be a little slow to kick off. Once the bait has been down for some time, the fish are attracted to its scent and begin to arrive on the scene. What would the session bring? We waited twenty minutes – then our first tope struck.

Instantaneously, Ed's rod was bent over, and the fight begun. The fish fought – and it fought hard. The reel screamed in protest, the

line held – as did the rod, with its tip seemingly skimming the top of the water at times. The dark outline of the fish came into view, its dorsal fin piercing through the surface before it dived down, vanishing from sight. The reel let out another scream as the rod bent further, and further, down.

With the tide running hard, a tope will use this to its advantage, making fighting one even more fun on light tackle. Skipper Lee joined Ed at the railings and peered over the side before getting out his phone to record the fight. The fish surfaced again, closer now to the boat. It swam in a circle, gliding effortlessly through the water before diving back down once again. Ed fought on. It surfaced again – clearly tiring this time. As Ed reeled it in, it began to thrash the water proving it was still full of energy, every inch of its body pure power and

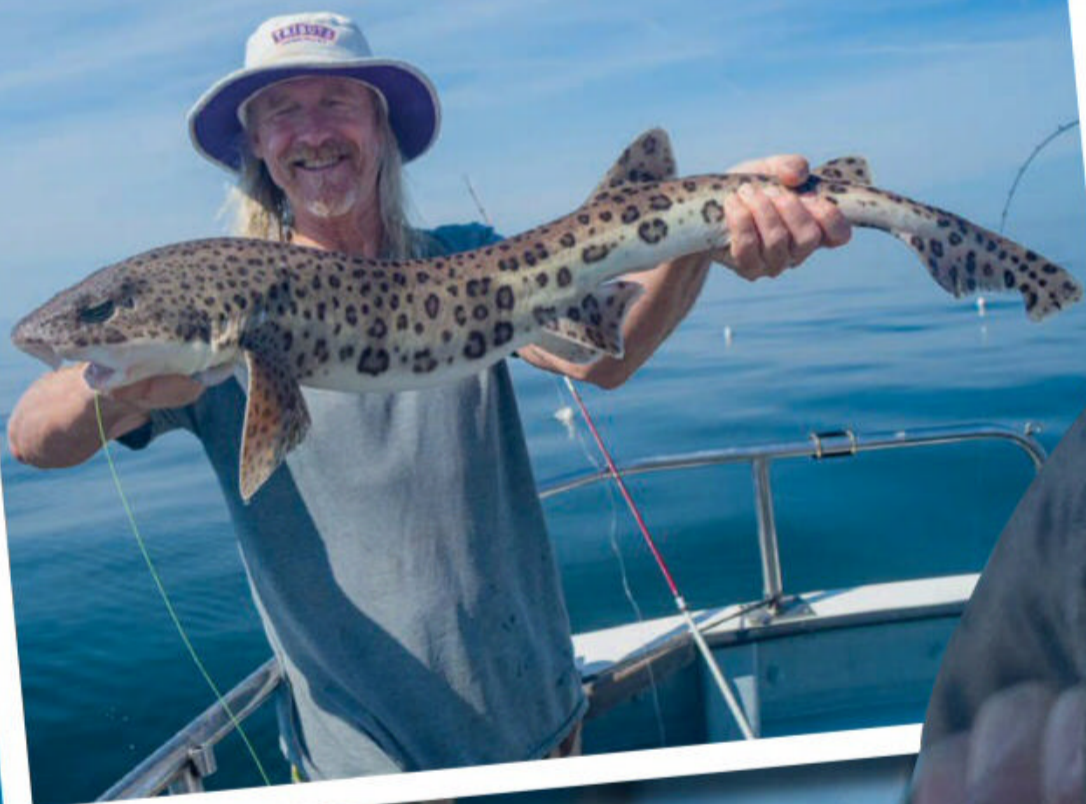
muscle. Eventually, Ed and Lee hauled the shark aboard, took a quick photograph and then released the prize.

Like most sharks, the tope is built for speed, having a streamlined body and long pointed snout. They look like a classic shark, with a greyish colouration and slight brown tinge, with a white underbelly. A type of houndshark, it goes by other names such as school shark, snapper shark and soupfin shark, feeding primarily on small fish such as dabs, pouting, mackerel, and crustaceans. Anglers know tope as powerful and formidable fighters.

CONSTANT ACTION

After this first fish, it was not long before everyone had caught something – tope, dogfish and bull huss. It was constant action, and the boat was a hive of activity for two hours. Often

A bull huss for the Seagull Whisperer





John 'Pops' Wicks
takes it easy as
he plays a fish

other tope followed a hooked fish as it was reeled in, chasing the scent of bait. The gulls began to congregate, hoping for an easy meal. Duncan talked to them as they loitered near the boat, earning himself the nickname of the 'Seagull Whisperer'.

Bryan managed to haul in one of the bigger specimens of the day, around 25lb – a very beautiful fish. One of the tope Ed hooked was rather eager to be landed, jumping through the railings of the boat and on to the deck. It really was a frantic session.

As the tide eased, the fish began to go off the feed. Unfortunately, on this session we did not hook into any larger specimen fish, but it is not uncommon to catch tope up to 40 or 50lb on this patch of ground, which is certainly an experience on light gear. It was now time to move on – but what great fun on such a brilliant day. ■

Bull huss
gatecrashed the
tope party



NEED TO KNOW

Lee Wicks operates fishing trips out of Padstow all year, including two-hour mackerel fishing sessions, four-hour reef and wreck trips and also eight-hour adventures. For information on fishing aboard Emma Kate II, contact Lee, tel: 07970 595244.



A fish on
for Bryan
Robinson...

**...and the
end result**



TOPE SPECIAL

VIEW FROM THE
WHEELHOUSE

Uptiding for tope was developed in the Thames Estuary, where charter skipper Scott Belbin now continues the tradition

IN THE PAST THE THAMES ESTUARY built up a reputation for producing big tope thanks to the likes of top skipper John Rawle who, with Bob Cox, put this area on the map with many great catches including record-breaking fish.

When I say the Thames Estuary, of course I mean the area that includes the Blackwater and Colne where Bradwell and my base at Mersea Island are located. Growing up knowing records had been broken on my doorstep helped to capture my imagination and drove me in search of big fish.

When I started chartering, I was keen to see my anglers share in some great sport. Luckily, at the time there were good catches of tope to keep them satisfied. There were lots of boats and word would get around when the tope turned up and where they were located. However, the numbers of tope dropped off for a few years and people turned to other fish species. A few of us kept trying for tope and saw little glimmers of hope from time to time. Happily, the last few years have seen an increase in their numbers and those anglers and

skippers who persevered were rewarded.

Traditionally, the end of May to the end of July is the height of the tope season in the estuary, with June seeing the main run of fish.

Last year the lockdown restrictions were relaxed just in time to head out in search of some tope. Our first couple of trips were single person bookings, including one where Stephen Clarke got his season off to a great start with a fish of 44lb.

The next set of tides produced more cracking fish, including a 44-pounder for Wayne Bennett, a 41lb fish by Fred Young and one of 47lb for Ian Hewett (main picture), which was the biggest of the season on my boat The Galloper. The biggest fish were males and it's a shame we didn't boat any big girls.

Although we had several more good trips and many decent fish, the most memorable





This 41lb
tope fell to
Fred Young



Stephen Clarke
with a 44lb tope



Another
of 44lb for
Wayne
Bennett

was when I took out five anglers towards the end of the season. The day was planned as a general trip for bass and smoothhounds but eventually it was decided to spend half the time tope fishing. Around midday we got the anchor down and had the rods out for tope.

My sights were set fairly low, and I would have been happy to see one tope. On the first cast, an experienced angler on his debut uptiding trip lost a tope, but things improved as the day progressed. Soon there were three fish being played at once and it was nothing short of carnage. We caught eight tope and six more were lost, with most of the fish over 30lb and the biggest 37lb. We couldn't have asked for a more enjoyable session. ■



NEED TO KNOW

Scott Belbin skippers The Galloper, a 10-metre Blyth catamaran, out of Mersea Island. A second-generation charter skipper, he has been running charter boats for more than 15 years. For information about the fishing, visit www.essexseafishing.co.uk or call Scott, tel: 07956 411528.

SKIPPER'S TACKLE AND BAIT TIPS

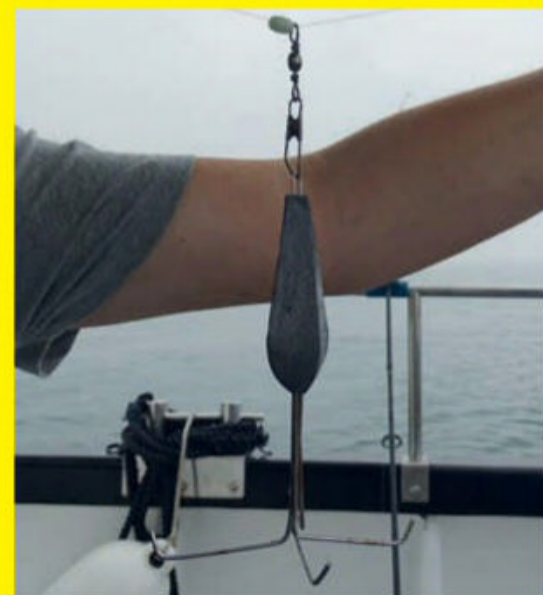
Our running leger rig (shown below) is based on those used around the Thames Estuary for many years. I still prefer a one foot length of wire crimped to a size 10/0 circle hook (I wouldn't fish without circle hooks now), a swivel at the other end attached to five feet of 100lb mono, which acts as a rubbing trace, and with another swivel to attach it to the mainline/leader.

The lead weight is on a swivel clip. Put a bead on the leader above this lead carrier and tie a stop knot a couple of feet above the trace. This creates a bolt rig to help the fish self-hook on the circle hook. This rig is also fish friendly because the tope won't trail a lead weight behind it if the rig snaps.

Although sometimes we get away with six or eight-ounce breakout sinkers, I prefer fixed-grip weights of eight to 10 ounces. That way I know the bait is anchored to the seabed and the extra weight helps with self-hooking.

Although an eel section used to be a favoured bait in the estuary, the decline of eels means we have turned to fresh mackerel, which gives off a better scent trail. You don't need a big bait, particularly when using circle hooks. I find chunks of mackerel (pictured below) are enough. Many other fresh fish baits work, particularly a whiting, pouting or dab.

I use braid mainline for uptide fishing because I find it helpful in the deeper water where we sometimes fish for tope.





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EMMA KATE

Padstow



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Words and
photography by
DAVE BARHAM

BOAT ANGLER

DRIFTING FOR FLATFISH

**It's that time of
year again.
Dave Barham
explains how to
target turbot, brill
and plaice**



**Where you catch one turbot
there are likely to be more**

THE SOUTH COAST SHOULD BE alive with flatfish now. Plaice can show up in huge numbers early in the season, with some days producing in excess of 40 fish per boat. Those early fish tend to be a bit skinny after spawning, so if it's fat, juicy eating fish you're after, the best time to concentrate your efforts is from late August right through October. This is the time when plaice are at their best, having fed well during the summer. May is a great time to target turbot and brill on the many sandbanks off the south coast, so what are you waiting for?

TARGET PLAICE

Targeting these spring flatfish, whether they be plaice, turbot or brill, is a fairly simple affair. However, there are a few tips and tricks you can employ to up your catch rate, as I will explain. ►



**You can get away with a
decent spinning rod and
fixed-spool reel in some
situations, but step up for
the big turbot and brill**

There's not much that compares to a big red spot



through your rod tip. At first every little bump feels like a bite. However, there's no mistaking the tell-tale 'rattle' as a hungry plaice grabs hold of your bait.

You need to be on the ball when fishing like this. As soon as the plaice takes the bait you need to let off some line in freespool for a count of five to allow the fish to eat the bait and find your hook. Then it's simply a matter of tightening the drag and lifting into the fish. There's no need to strike. You'll feel the weight of the fish as you lift into it. Do not to bully the fish too much because plaice have a habit of throwing the hook or 'letting go' as they near the boat. Just keep a steady pressure on and keep winding – then you will reap the rewards.

RIG & BAIT

When it comes to rigs, I like to use a single or double hook flowing trace with a few black and green beads added above the hook(s). I sometimes fish a single hook rig with a flashing spoon, but mostly when fishing in fast tides over mussel beds.

The tide helps lift the spoon and baited hook off the seabed and there's less chance of it snagging. A quick tip is to thread a freshwater float stop up your hooklength before adding



Thsi brill took a liking to a launce bait



Smaller turbot are round in shape, like a plate, but we like to put these ones back

The general method of drift fishing for flatties is the same for all species. When the boat is drifting with the tide over the chosen mark, simply lower your baited rig and lead weight over the side until it hits the seabed. Then let off a few yards of line so that the weight and rig stay in contact with the bottom at all times.

It's a slightly different approach when fishing over mussel beds for plaice. Your best bet here is to use a heavier sinker and try to keep the angle of your line as straight down as possible. The more line you let out, the greater the angle you will have on your line and this massively increases the chances of the rig getting snagged on the seabed.

When you're drifting you will feel your lead weight bumping and banging on the seabed

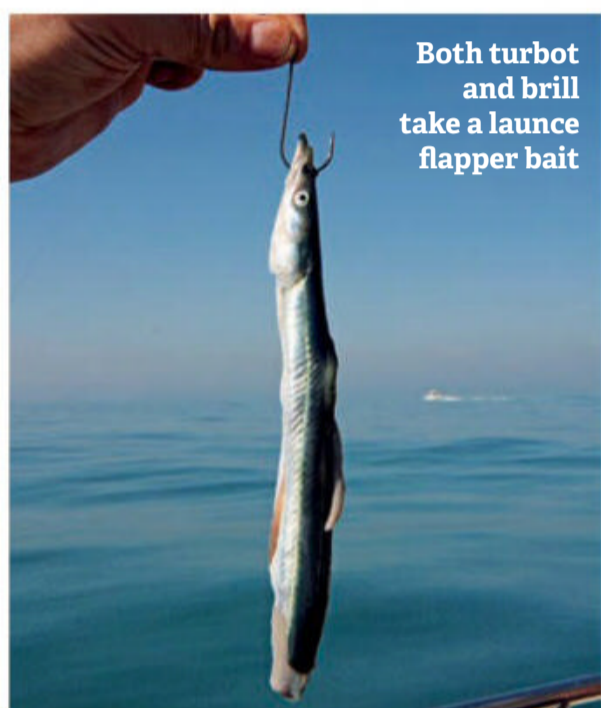


Use short hooklengths for plaice over rough ground. Add some beads too

the beads and your hook. This prevents the beads from sliding up the hooklength when in the water (they float).

Plaice show a definite liking for long, thin baits. Cram a few wriggly ragworms on your hooklength and follow this by tipping off your hook with a long, thin strip of squid. Talk to any skipper that fishes out of Weymouth and they'll tell you to tip your rag and squid bait off with a whole, uncooked king prawn. For some reason, the plaice down there love them, and most of the 5lb-plus fish are caught using this bait.

Other baits do work well, and a combination of rag, black lug and squid is another option. Peeler crabs, mussels and razorfish also score when conditions are right.



Both turbot and brill take a launce flapper bait



The strip of mackerel can be whipped to the hook shank

TACKLING BRILL AND TURBOT

The best method for catching turbot and brill on the drift is with a 3ft trace and size 4/0 hook with either half a fillet of mackerel or a even whole fillet if the water is coloured. The tactic is to drag the rig and heavy lead weight over the ripples of a sandbank.

If you really want to catch a big brill, then try dragging a sandeel or launce flapper bait – they absolutely love them, especially if you can catch some fresh before fishing.

As far as rods and reels go for this type of fishing, you need to go with a 12lb or 20lb-class set up. Either a fixed-spool reel or small multiplier loaded with 30lb braid is ideal. For the most part you'll be using lead weights around the eight ounces to 14oz range, depending on the size of the tide and strength of wind that's affecting the speed of the drift.

I learned a great tip for cutting down half a fillet of mackerel so that it looks more like a sandeel in the water. It's perfect when the turbot seem to be a tad finicky, or when there is little tide. All you do is remove the fillet from your mackerel and then remove

as much of the meat away from the skin as possible so it's wafer thin. Then simply cut the 'meatless' fillet in half lengthways and use the shiny silver belly section. I've also caught a fair few plaice using this tactic, so it's well worth giving it a go on ground where plaice and turbot are known to inhabit together.

TAKE FIVE

The method for catching turbot on the drift requires a little concentration. Most of the time you'll be drifting quite quickly over rippled sandbanks, and after a few fishless hours you'll start to imagine that every bump on your rod tip is a bite.

The key to this style of fishing is to use the correct amount of lead weight in conjunction with braid mainline. Using braid allows you to use less weight, but it also provides excellent bite detection due to the lack of stretch – you can really feel what's going on down there on the seabed.

The reason for getting this bit right is because the last thing you want is to have your bait 200 yards away from the boat, which is what happens if your sinker is too light and you have to keep letting out line to

ensure you're still on the bottom.

Once you're confident that your rig and weight are correct, lower your bait to the bottom and let off a little line to get it away from the boat, say maybe 20ft or so, then use your thumb as a brake on the spool. Don't put the reel back into gear. The reason for doing this is so you can let out some line the instant you feel a bite.

Doing this for a count of five gives the turbot the confidence to swallow the whole bait and your hook. Most big turbot will nail a big bait and swallow it whole in the blink of an eye but the smaller fish will often grab half of it, which is why it's important to give as little resistance as possible and let the fish take the meal properly. As soon as you count to five, simply put the reel back into gear and begin winding – there's no need to strike, the speed of the drifting boat will set the hook.

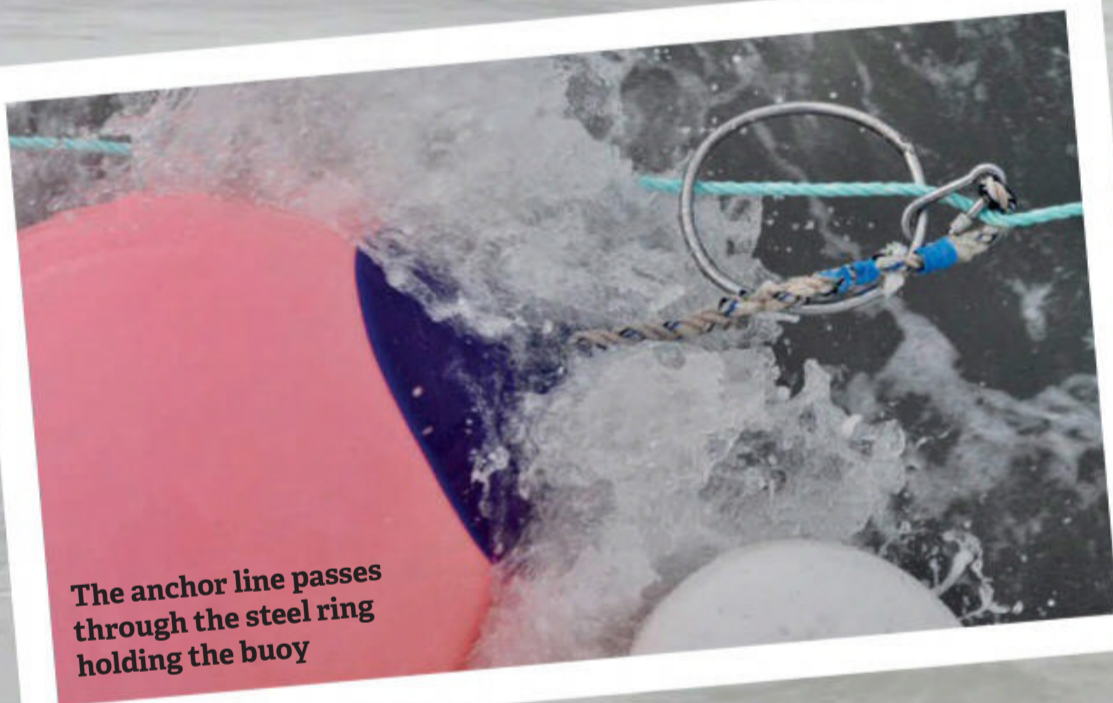
There's no mistaking a turbot bite. Unlike plaice, a big turbot will grab your bait and engulf it in one swoop. You'll either feel a few rattles on your rod tip, followed by your rod tip dipping as you feel the weight of the fish, or you'll have the rod almost wrenched from your hands. It's a great sight to see a turbot or brill come to the surface. Enjoy! ■



HAUL OUT THE HOOK

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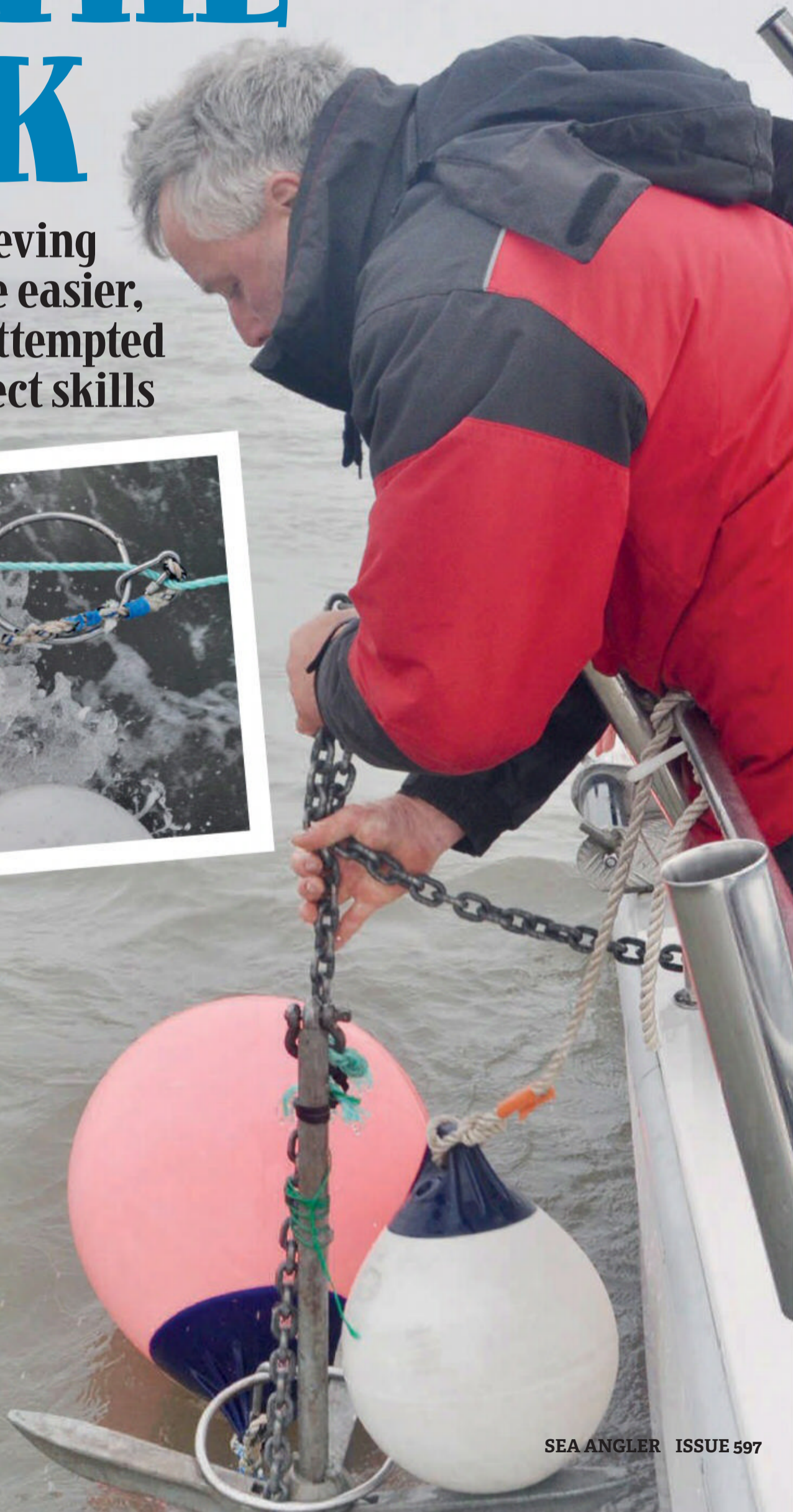
This method of retrieving an anchor makes life easier, but should only be attempted if you have the correct skills

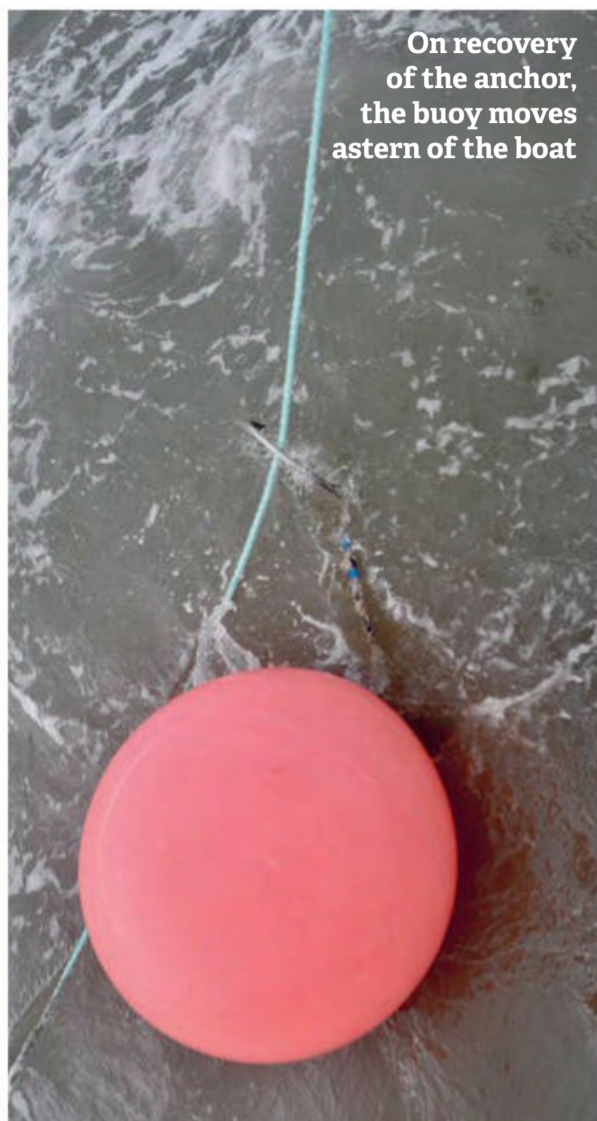


The anchor line passes through the steel ring holding the buoy

EXPLOITING THE POWER OF A boat's engine to assist the recovery of an anchor using what is known as an Alderney Ring is a very effective technique. It can save you a lot of hard work if your vessel is not equipped with a winch, but failure to follow the correct procedures can lead to the rapid swamping and probable sinking of your craft.

In all honesty, this is not really a technique you can learn about safely from reading a fishing magazine, but each year I see more and more small-boat anglers using the method. If nothing else, reading this will highlight a few safety issues. If you attempt this, I strongly suggest you ask someone who has mastered the necessary skills to demonstrate it to you and let you have a go under their watchful eye.





On recovery of the anchor, the buoy moves astern of the boat

IMMENSE LOAD

Using your engine to power out an anchor, which could be stuck fast in over 100 feet of water in a strong run of tide, puts an immense amount of loading on a small section of your boat, usually the bow cleat.

If this cleat is not 100 per cent secure then it can get ripped out of its fittings very easily. If it is secure but the construction of the boat has been weakened over the years, there is a risk, given the applied load, of seriously damaging the structural integrity of your boat.

The biggest danger is getting the technique wrong and ending up with the anchor warp fouled around the propeller, rudder, engine leg or keel. This will result in the boat anchored either with her stern or beam into the tide, something you do not want aboard any boat.

I am aware of several instances of small fishing boats that have quickly sunk, some almost certainly as a result of attempting this technique. This danger is at its highest when working in areas subjected to a strong tide, such as the Bristol Channel, where there have been instances that have resulted in loss of life.

THE EQUIPMENT

The recovery rig consists of a large diameter, highly visible buoy and a stainless steel ring, which should be large enough for the anchor chain, shackles and the shaft of the anchor to pass easily through.

At the start of the day, the entire length of warp is threaded through the Alderney ring. At anchor, the buoy, which is attached by three or four feet of rope, is left hanging free on the tensioned anchor warp, where it will settle just

in front of the boat when at anchor.

The anchor warp is securely tied off at the bow cleat, using the usual series of figure-of-eight wraps. Of course, the exact length can be adjusted to suit the water depth in the usual way or threaded through the bow roller and tied off within easy reach of the cockpit. This latter technique is more efficient when anchoring over ground with greatly differing depths.

Some rigs incorporate what is known as 'lazy line,' which is attached to the anchor warp using something like a large carabiner. This line needs to be about 12 feet long, with the standing part tied off within reach of the cockpit.

The lazy line is not in any way a load-bearing component of the anchoring set-up, being there purely to assist in managing the anchor rope during the recovery stage. It achieves this by allowing the crewman whose job it is to recover the warp to use the line to pull the anchor warp to hand. Remember the warp remains secured at the bow at all times.

HOW IT'S DONE

When the time comes to recover the anchor and move, the engine should be started immediately before reeling in your fishing tackle. This is important because many outboard engines are fickle before they reach normal operating temperature. If an outboard engine has not been given sufficient time to warm up, it may stall when you select either forward or reverse gear. Restarting a cold engine can take a few moments.

When working in strong tides, as will often be the case, should the engine stall at a critical point during the recovery and you lose power, this can all too easily result in the boat drifting over the warp. Once this happens, the rope might wrap around something beneath the hull.

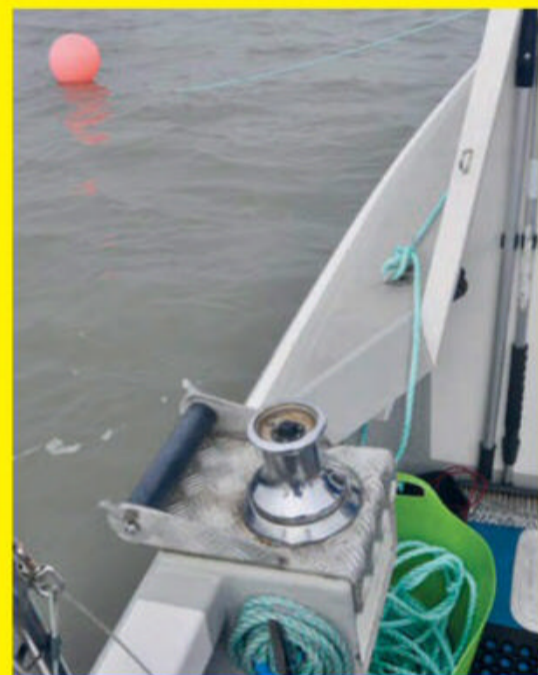
Everything aboard the boat should be stowed in order to leave the deck clear of clutter. The skipper selects forward gear and very slowly drives the boat ahead at an angle of approximately 45 degrees to the tensioned anchor warp, always making sure the boat does not run directly over the top of the warp. The crewman should keep a constant watch on the proximity of the anchor warp and communicate progress to the skipper.

A bow of line will begin to form within the anchor warp, with the buoy and Alderney ring hanging within the bow and eventually passing astern of the boat. The skipper continues to run ahead slowly, which will force the buoy below the surface as it moves down the still anchored warp. If everything goes to plan the increased pressure and change in angle of pull will force the anchor free, at which point the buoy will resurface.

The skipper keeps the boat running ahead until the full length of the anchor and chain and finally the shaft of the anchor pull completely through the Alderney ring, with the anchor flukes held securely within the ring. At this point the skipper turns the boat at 90 degrees to the anchor warp, engages neutral, and the crewman starts to recover the anchor warp as the boat drifts steadily back towards the buoy with the tide.

IMMOVEABLE OBJECT

Occasionally the anchor will not break free so it is a good idea to incorporate a trip link beforehand. This is made by shackling the end of the chain to the bottom of the anchor, then securing it the top of the shaft using weak line or cable ties to make it rest in the right direction on the seabed. If you have rigged the anchor to trip, maintaining steady pressure should break your weak link free and allow you to reverse the direction of pull and free the anchor. If the anchor remains stuck, do not be tempted to keep increasing the amount of engine power to free it. It is far safer to tie a buoy at the end of the warp and leave it, then try again later when the tide might have eased. Better still, ask the skipper of a larger boat to have a go at recovering it is the safer option. ■



Do not run the boat over the warp



Retrieving the anchor chain



The anchor passes through the ring



THE BIG INTERVIEW

NORMAN DUNLOP

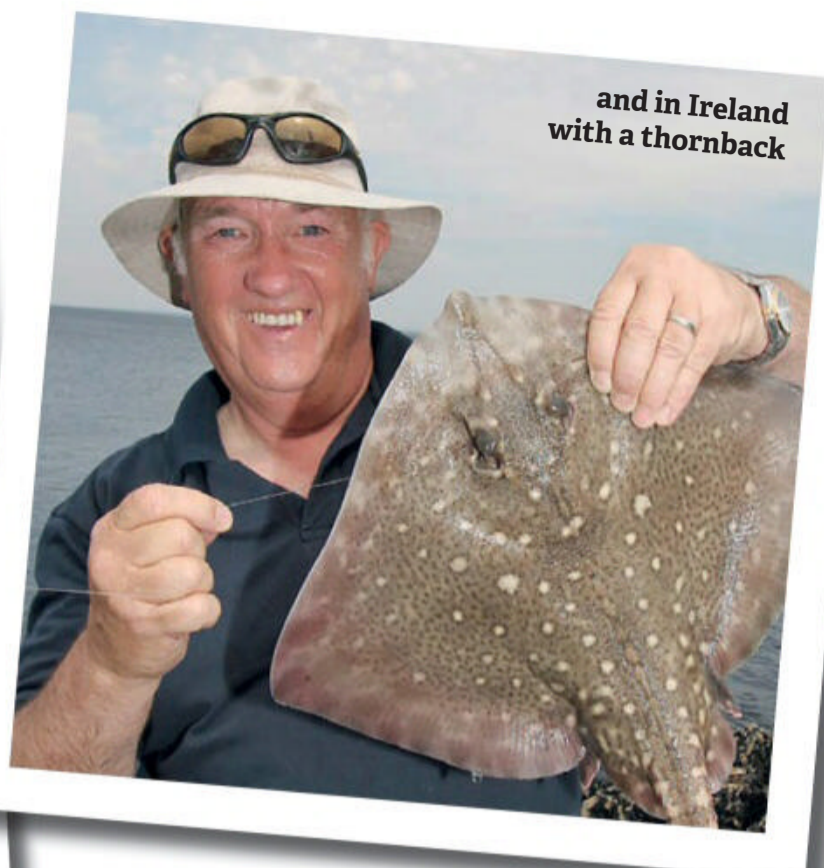
Meet a genuine angler's angler whose career was dedicated to putting Ireland's boat and shore fishing on the map

NORMAN DUNLOP, BELFAST BORN, now retired in Dublin, spent 31 years (1978-2009) as the National Sea Angling Advisor for the former Central Fisheries Board, and finally Inland Fisheries Ireland. Part of his remit was to identify and catalogue the sea angling opportunities throughout the country.

The long-term aim was to collate as much information as possible that would then be used to encourage anglers from overseas to visit Ireland and create angling tourism.

A beautifully coloured cod for Norman Dunlop on one of his many boat outings





Q Was it a family influence that got you into fishing, or someone else?

ND: It was my grandfather who introduced me to fishing when I was six. I remember my first acquaintances with sea sickness, but my abiding memory is of boating a cod almost as big as myself. I guess that must have been during the summer of 1952.

As I got older, I regularly fished the ponds and streams around the eastern side of Belfast. Eels also featured in my early memories from the pondage in Victoria Park, under the shadow of the huge cranes of the Harland and Wolff shipyards. Occasional trips on the train to Bangor would see us fish the pier for summer mackerel and garfish, plus autumnal whiting and codling.

In my early teens my pals and I cycled to venues further afield including rock fishing below the Coastguard station at Orlock Head, on the southern corner of Belfast Lough. This produced large numbers of blockan (small coalfish), wrasse, pollack, codling, strap conger, huss and dogfish. This was my favourite shore mark throughout much of my early teens.

Q You've often spoken of the halcyon days of the Donaghadee Sea Angling Club and its members. What was it about the club that made it so influential during the late 60s and 70s and how did it influence your fishing?

ND: At 16, I started entering boat angling tournaments on Belfast Lough. There were almost 200 clubs in Northern Ireland at the time. From May to September there was a near full calendar of events so most weekends I got to sea.

Bangor was the epicentre of these boat festivals. One Saturday, I met two guys from Donaghadee SAC who were my first big influences. Billy Greer was the club secretary and also treasurer of the Irish

Federation of Sea Anglers, based in Dublin. Roy Brown was treasurer of Donaghadee SAC and Billy's assistant treasurer at the IFSA. Both were very experienced tournament anglers and both free with advice and information.

I was then invited to join the Donaghadee club. Here I learned virtually everything there was to know about sea fishing in Belfast Lough and the Antrim coast. Roy was an incredible tactician and I've never met another angler who could read the conditions the way he could. It was amazing to watch him week after week out fishing everyone on the boat. Gradually I could see the way he fished his drift rigs, shortening them as the tide slackened or adding a home-made spoon, usually bright orange or red, as the tide picked up. He fished with size 2/0 hand-tied, dyed goat's hair lures with a twist of silver paper on the shank and he could catch haddock when nobody else could. He always had top-class bait too, which he dug himself.

Within a year, my love of keeping records and writing landed me with the publicity and recorder's jobs at the club. I approached the local Newtownards Chronicle about writing a weekly piece on the club's activities, which led to me becoming press officer for the Ulster Region. Meanwhile the Irish FSA, through the offices of Billy and Roy, were keen to harness my talents nationally, so at 19 years of age I was voted into the position of press officer for the Irish FSA – the youngest ever officer to hold a post at the top table.

My first job was to get our news out on a regular basis. Angling journalists from the main Irish papers were duly contacted, also Peter Collins of Sea Angler magazine, who was delighted to facilitate me, with one proviso, that I agree reporting boundaries with Des Brennan of the Inland Fisheries Trust, who wrote a general Irish piece, which occasionally contained Federation news.

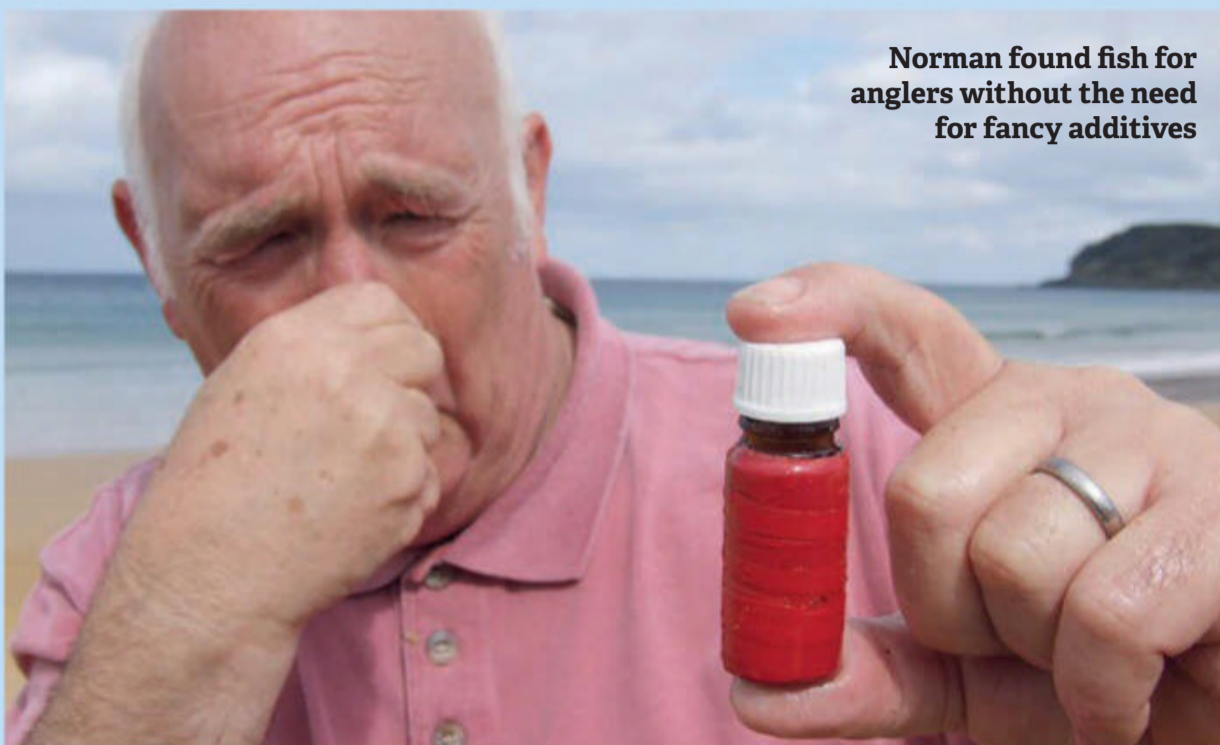
Fortunately, soon afterwards, I met Des in Dublin. We got on like a house on fire and possibly that is where the seed on my future in angling was sown. ▶

Q *The major turning point in your life was getting the sea angling advisor's job with the Central Fisheries Board. A huge responsibility, but how did that opportunity come about?*

ND: I'd met Des Brennan, who was head of angling at the time and ably assisted by Kevin Linnane who I'd also met on numerous occasions and assisted in a ray tagging programme on board the IFT research vessel Finola, which happened to be in Belmullet while I was on holiday with my Donaghadee pals. We knew where the nursery area was and caught and tagged over 200 immature rays (mainly thornback) for the week in about six feet of water inside Broadhaven Bay.

It wasn't until much later that Kevin admitted that he coincided his visit to Belmullet with our holiday because a reliable source had told him we knew where the small rays were. I was on good terms with both Des and Kevin and had also met the legendary Dr Michael Kennedy (author of 'The Sea Angler's Fishes' and 'Saltwater Angling') on a couple of occasions. I got a call from Kevin one evening telling me there was a job being advertised for a sea angling officer. He thought I might be interested. I jumped at the chance and prepared a portfolio of my pictures and articles to date.

You can imagine how pleased I was to see Doc Kennedy, Des Brennan and Kevin Linnane on the seven-man interview board. A fortnight later I was called for a second interview, which basically was to inform me that I had the job if I wanted it, but it would require me to move to Dublin and start Monday fortnight. I was in a fairly well-paid managerial position at a large Belfast electrical warehouse and the drop in wages was significant, but I knew that jobs of this kind do not happen very often, so I grabbed it with both hands.



Norman found fish for anglers without the need for fancy additives

Q *What exactly did the job entail and how important was that original programme to the opening up of Irish angling tourism to a wider audience?*

ND: When I joined the CFB, I discovered I had a partner in Peter Green – son of Peggy Green, doyen of shark fishing in Kinsale, proprietor of the Kinsale Angling Centre and one of the brains behind Kinsale Festival of Food. The plan was that Peter and I would research and map the entire coastline of the country to uncover and record the available species, the tackle and techniques required, to locate good bait-gathering areas, find reliable local angling contacts, local charter boat skippers, and

encourage boats to be made available in areas where there were none.

We tried to provide all the information a visiting angler would require, be they from overseas or from Ireland. This was a mammoth task, which required us to test fish areas, many of which had never seen a rod and line, and many in the north west and west where there were literally no sea angling traditions.

We conducted our research in all weathers and walked every single beach and headland in the country, studying them and writing down our findings. It was frustrating, challenging and tedious, but it also had so many rewarding moments. It took four years to complete.

This brought us to stage two of our programme, how best to utilise the information and get it out there? The regional boards needed to produce information on angling in their areas and our research gave them the perfect platform. Peter and I divided the country in two. Peter took the Southern, South Western and Shannon Regions, and I took the Eastern, Western, North Western and Northern areas. Within 18 months sea angling guides had been produced for each area. ▶

**continues
on page 72**



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We were working closely with Bord Failte (Irish Tourist Board) and soon the trade was eager to sell the Irish sea angling product, me covering the home countries of Scotland, Wales, England and Northern Ireland, and Peter in Germany and Holland. So began the most successful period of sea angling tourism in Ireland, and the longer we stayed at it, the better we got at selling ourselves. Within 10 years, Ireland had become the number one sea angling destination in Europe, but, as always, new ideas were required to maintain the momentum.

I had always believed that angling tournaments were a way of attracting anglers to an area providing the fishing was good enough and the tournament unique enough to create interest. Through the good offices of angling friend Clive Richards, then chairman of the UK's Sea Anglers Match Federation, we decided that a week-long shore fishing tournament for teams of two would be a major attraction if good sponsorship could be obtained.

In both our minds the Dingle Peninsula during September/October was an ideal time with the fishing at its best for a majority of species. Daiwa stepped in as sponsor and the tournament became an outstanding success. After 39 events, the

Daiwa Irish Pairs is one of the longest-running shore angling events in Europe.

Likewise, the Rosslare Small Boats Festival started when Liverpool travel agent Dave Houghton asked me if such an event was viable. I devised the first small-boat species tournament format whereby each boat brought in one of each species to a weigh in. Over 30 species now regularly turn up in this event, now in its 35th year. With close to 50 boats participating, it has become one of the best tournaments I have had the pleasure to be involved with and one I just loved fishing in myself.

Q *Having been involved in the compilation of the Regional Fishing Guide booklets, what would be the angling highlight in each individual region?*

ND: I don't favour any one region but here are the strengths of each region as I experienced them.

Northern Region: The world-class bluefin tuna fishing on Donegal Bay is the outstanding feature there. **North-Western Region:** This area offers the greatest variety of marine species in the country, with Broadhaven Bay being the top boat venue. **Western Region:** The superb rock fishing from the North Clare shoreline is in a class of its own. **Shannon Region:** The unique estuarine fishing on the Shannon offers the chance to catch big fish from the shore. **South Western Region:** Much of Ireland's fishing reputation was based on bass fishing in the Atlantic surf, amid the scenic beauty of County Kerry. On their day the beaches on the Dingle Peninsula still offer splendid sport. **Southern Region:** Ballycotton and Youghal offer some of the best boat fishing in Ireland for sharks, plus a wide range of reef species. **Eastern Region:** The south-eastern corner of Ireland is a Mecca for small-boat anglers who visit Rosslare and Kilmore Quay.

Q *You were a member of the Irish Specimen Fish Committee. How influential has it been in forming the current high participant levels of specimen anglers in Ireland?*

ND: I served on the Irish Specimen Fish Committee for about 10 years up until retirement in 2009. It also administers the Specimen Fish Awards Scheme,

which recognises all anglers who catch a specimen fish and is responsible for generating publicity for the angling venue. Specimen fish winners receive a certificate and pin at special awards ceremonies, both here and abroad, and are included in the annual Specimen Fish Report, which is eagerly awaited each January. Those award certificates and pins are keenly sought after by a large group of Irish and overseas anglers and this scheme has proved a major marketing tool for the promotion of angling in Ireland. The numbers of 'specimen' hunters in Ireland, and from overseas, continues to grow helping to safeguard the future of angling in the country.

Q *Not necessarily by size and weight, what would you deem as your most satisfying fish you've caught from Irish waters and why?*

ND: I could say the hour and a bit tussle with a huge mako off Watamu in Kenya, but for Ireland it has to be the 3lb 13oz whiting I caught on one of Roy Brown's red spoons and a strip of mackerel at Belmullet in 1973. I had seen Roy catch lots of good whiting on this gear on the Rigg Bank at Donaghadee and decided to make some copies and try them. It was my first Irish Specimen Fish and is still a local record to this day.

Q *What would you say is the most important attribute a successful angler needs to have?*

ND: Having worked with some of Ireland's first 'thinking' anglers like Doc Kennedy, Des Brennan, and Kevin Linnane, and from the wisdom they imparted, I learned that knowing your quarry was the most important attribute of all. I was lucky that I was in such illustrious company for my formative years in the fisheries service, and I devoured all the information I was fed, but in essence much of what I learned was contained in two old books which are still in my possession and which I treasure to this day. They are Doc Kennedy's "The Sea Angler's Fishes" and Des Brennan's "The Sea Angler - Afloat and Ashore". When I turn the yellowing pages of these wonderful old volumes and read the precious words, I can still hear the soft voices of these legendary fathers of Irish sea angling. ■

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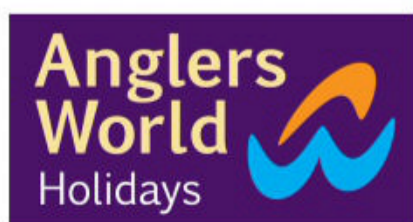
Talk to us about Norway 2022

If sea fishing is running through your veins - Norway has it all. Stunning scenery, generally sheltered sea fishing, a huge choice of species and a chance to beat your personal best big cod, big halibut, coalfish or wolffish as well as many other species.

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Expect prolific fishing with the chance of really big cod, coalfish, wolffish and occasional big halibut. Haddock and flatties are abundant too. Top action on pirks and big shads. Iceland offers one of the best value destinations in Scandinavia. An excellent value destination.

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TAME A TREVALLY

A fish of real beauty, the widespread bluefin variety gives a powerful fight

OF ALL OF THE MANY SPECIES OF trevally caught in the tropical seas around the world, the bluefin variety is undoubtedly the most beautiful. One of the more common species, the bluefin trevally is also one of the most widespread, being widely distributed throughout the entire Indo-Pacific region from the coast of East Africa to Central America.

Easily recognised by the electric-blue fins and numerous blue and black spots that pepper its sides, this species inhabits inshore environments,

The bluefin trevally has distinctive markings

TOP TACTICS

Bluefin trevally can be encountered almost anywhere including in the open ocean, over sandy beaches and flats, around rock headlands, river mouths and, perhaps best of all, isolated outcrops of rock just offshore. Some of the very best fishing I have experienced with this species





Bluefins take any type of lure



Always remain vigilant when lure fishing

Your tackle must have the ability to stop the fish diving into cover



has been when casting lures into white water, where a swell breaks over a reef or rock.

Like most species of trevally and jack, bluefin readily take any type of lure, but poppers, sub-surface stick baits and small metal casting jigs are especially effective.

If you are going to target bluefin trevally, it is essential to use suitable tackle because, almost always, there is a better than slim chance of hooking other species including giant trevally, rooster fish or tuna. For surface popping or fishing sub-surface stick baits, you'll need a very well made 8000-14000 size reel, loaded with around 40kg breaking strain braid. The same reel suffices for jigging, which is another effective technique when the fish are in deep water.

Many fishing lodges at prime locations offer the option of hiring tackle and I suggest this might be the best option for your first trip or two.

Of course, all links, swivels and, most importantly, hooks should be the very best quality products. You'll be using very heavy drag settings on the reel because it is essential to stop fish swimming into the reef or other structure. This amount of pressure, combined with non-stretch braid and an immensely powerful fish, will put incredible strain on every single component of your tackle. This is something many, if not most anglers learn the hard way.

Fly-fishing can be especially productive whenever you find yourself in a position to present a fly at a fish, such as when casting along the edge of a reef or occasionally at cruising fish over a flat. A take is all but guaranteed. Live baits can be deadly too.

Always remain vigilant and watch for signs of feeding shoals of trevally, such as birds working schools of bait along the shoreline or over a reef.

BEST DESTINATIONS

Bluefin trevally are caught at all of the tropical destinations fished by travelling sport fishermen throughout both the Indian and Pacific oceans.

In East Africa, it is Kenya, Tanzania and Mozambique that all produce fish, while the mid-oceanic islands including Madagascar, Mauritius, The Maldives, Sri Lanka, The Seychelles and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands are hugely productive too.

Throughout the Pacific Ocean, bluefin trevally are found from Japan in the north to Australia in the south. They are abundant at many of the thousands of islands between these latitudes.

Unlike giant trevally, the bluefin variety is found throughout Central America, with anglers fishing in both Costa Rica and Panama regularly catching these stunning fish. ■

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Q&A

SHORE ANGLING

ASK THE EXPERTS

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PAUL FENECH

Shore angler and tackle expert Paul is here to solve your shore angling problems.



DAVE LEWIS

Based in Newport, South Wales, our contributing editor Dave answers boat fishing questions.



MARK CRAME

Suffolk-based Mark gets a thrill from fishing afloat on a kayak. Send him your kayaking queries.



HENRY GILBEY

Angler and photo-journalist Henry, based in Cornwall, will answer questions on lure angling.



DAN SISSONS

The Portsmouth angler will provide answers on the sport of light rock fishing (LRF), the go-anywhere tactic.

HOW TO ASK A US QUESTION

■ Email: sa.ed@kelsey.co.uk
or online: www.facebook.com/seaanglermag

WINNING QUESTION

Q Are the crabs caught by children from harbour walls the same crabs that go on to become peelers? If so, could I catch my own to use as bait?

PHIL GRANT, NEWARK, NOTTS

PF says: In short, the answer is yes. In fact, all shore crabs will moult and shed their shells in order to grow at some point, but there are a couple of things to consider before you rush off to your nearest harbour with a crab line and bucket.

First of all, when shore crabs begin their moulting process, they will stop feeding, so targeting them with a crab line and bait will prove to be difficult. The best way to collect peelers is to search among the weed on rocks, harbour walls or groynes at low tide because this is where a peeler crab will hide until it has fully moulted.

Another point to note is that eventually, a shore crab will reach a point in its life where it will simply stop moulting. Those

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large hard-backed crabs you've seen caught from harbour walls could be crabs that no longer peel. Incidentally, a medium-sized hardback crab makes a superb wrasse or smoothhound bait.



Q While fishing in a gale recently, I suffered my tripod being blown over several times. How can I prevent this happening in the future?

DAVE BROADBANK, BY EMAIL

PF says: The most common mistake anglers make while fishing in a gale is placing their rod too high in the tripod. By lowering the tripod closer to the beach (shown left) means the rod will suffer less wind resistance. In addition, depending on what direction the wind is blowing, try to place the rod pointing downwind too. Other handy tips are to dig the tripod's legs further into the sand or shingle, together with hanging a bag of stones or sand from the hook on the tripod. This will offer more stability and make it more difficult to be blown over.



Q I've never used prawns as bait before and would like to know if they are best used raw or cooked and does it matter if the legs are removed?

GARY FAIRBAIRN, BOTTISHAM, CAMBS

PF says: Prawns can be a really good bait at times, especially when targeting species such as smoothhounds or flatfish. I've always tended to use them uncooked, simply to enable all of the natural juices to remain within it.

After removing the hard shell, the flesh can be relatively soft and will need to be secured to the hook with a light binding of elastic cotton, so it really doesn't matter whether you leave the legs on or not. It's not vitally important that the bait actually looks like a prawn, as it's the scent that the fish is interested in.

Prawns also add extra value to a cocktail bait too and I've seen shore anglers having plenty of success when doing this, especially when targeting cod or rays. A similar bait to the prawn is a shrimp where two or three mounted to a hook – again with elastic cotton – can prove to be really successful on occasions.

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Q When targeting bass with a crab bait, do I allow the fish to take line and swim off when I feel a bite? I've lost far too many fish by leaving it too long, so when is the best time to strike?

LIAM TOBIN, MUMBLES, SWANSEA



PF says: Bass are true predators and can hit a bait extremely hard without finding the hook point. However, they will often come back for another go, so being patient is a good tactic.

The main thing to focus on is your choice of rig, especially the size of hook and bait, as well as the lead weight you use. Most bass anglers opt to use a running leger or a pulley rig in conjunction with a breakout sinker in order to get a secure hook-up. Once a bass grabs your bait and moves off,

it will be stopped by an anchored lead weight in the seabed, which will ultimately set the hook before the fish breaks out the sinker's grip wires.

Try not to wait too long and always maintain a tight line to the fish. If the bass senses any slack line, it will use this opportunity to shake the hook free; they are masters at it. Finally, always try to match the size of your bait to the hook you are using. A small hook armed with a large crab bait that masks the point of the hook can lead to a missed bite.

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Q & A

LIGHT ROCK FISHING

Q What set-up would be best for deep water and heavy jigs when fishing for cod and pollack from a charter boat?

BRANDON HAWKINS, SCUNTHORPE,
NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE

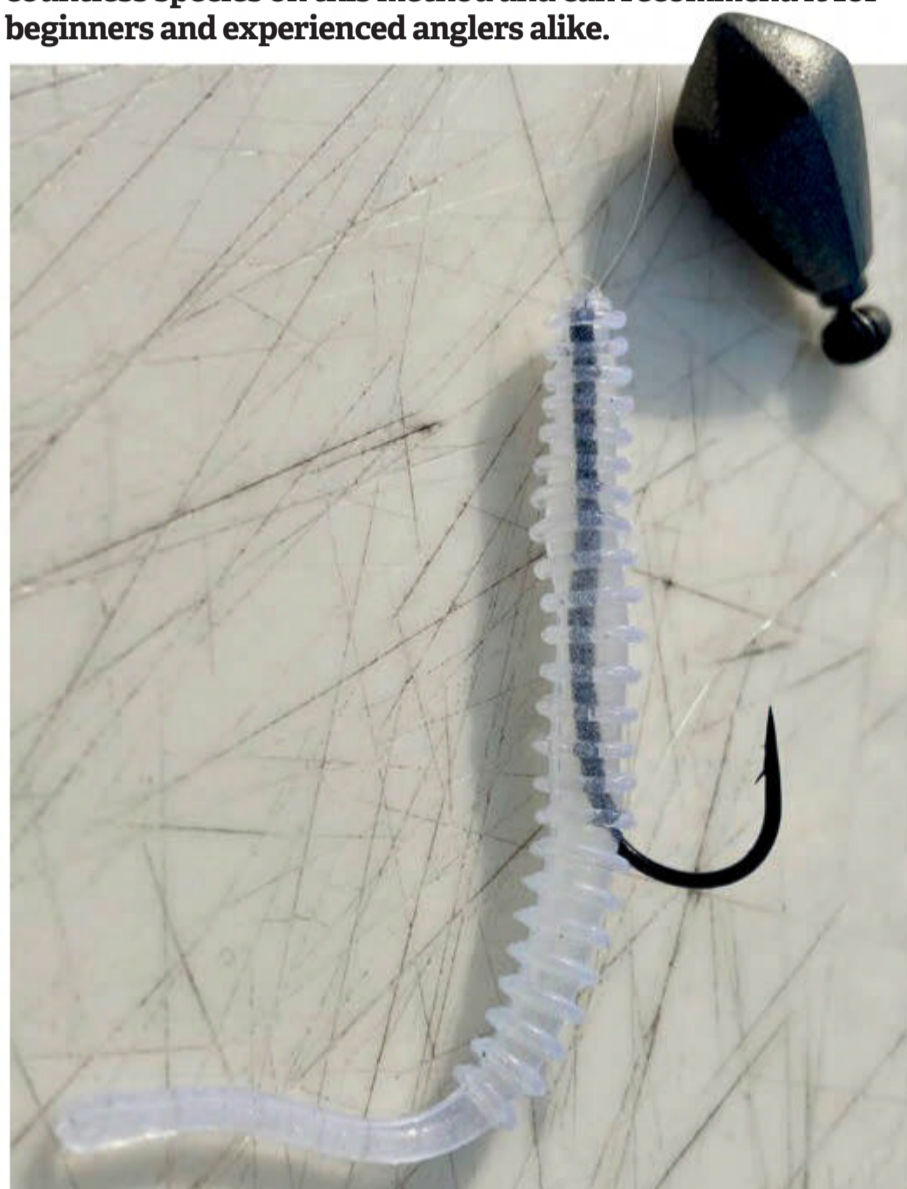
DS says: I can tell you what I use for deep water, but your skipper would be best placed to give specific details on tide and depth. For up to 200 feet, I fish with a 7ft 6in rod rated for 60g, which I pair with a 5000 size fixed-spool reel. My braid is 1.2PE. If I'm mainly targeting pollack I'll use a 20lb fluoro leader, but if cod are around then step that up a notch. I fish this with a two-ounce weight.



Q I'd like to be able to fish with lures from both boat and shore without investing in a whole array of specific tackle. Can I put a lure on a running leger or paternoster?

RICHARD STILES, NANTWICH, CHESHIRE

DS says: You can put a lure on either of those rigs but you'll lose some control over the lure and probably lose tackle. Try the free rig, which is simple and requires nothing more complicated than some hooks suited to your lure, and a weight which slides up and down the line. As you lift the rod tip the lure and weight meet, but when you drop the tip the lure separates from the weight and flutters freely. I've had countless species on this method and can recommend it for beginners and experienced anglers alike.



Q My mission for this summer is to catch a black bream on a lure. You have mentioned white lures before but what size should I use?

DANIEL KELLY, HORSHAM, WEST SUSSEX

DS says: Bream have small mouths and peck at a bait or lure. Your lure needs to be fairly thin to allow the hook to find the fish and also flexible to fold up well. Lures of two or three inches are my favourites. Because you require something thin in profile, a worm or straight tail pattern is a great place to start. I use size 4 to size 2 Aberdeen hooks for this job. The trick is to fish the lure in such a way that you do not allow the fish too long to peck at the lure. Plenty of finesse and patience will crack the code.



Q What is your opinion about changing the treble hooks for barbless or single versions and the effect on the action and hook-up rate of the lure? Does this advice change according to the species sought, such as bass, pollack and mackerel?

GUY HALL, MARSKE-BY-THE-SEA, NORTH YORKSHIRE

HG says: I am totally in favour of using only barbless hooks for lure fishing. I believe that it's not only better for the fish, but also for us, and I am not losing any fish by doing so.

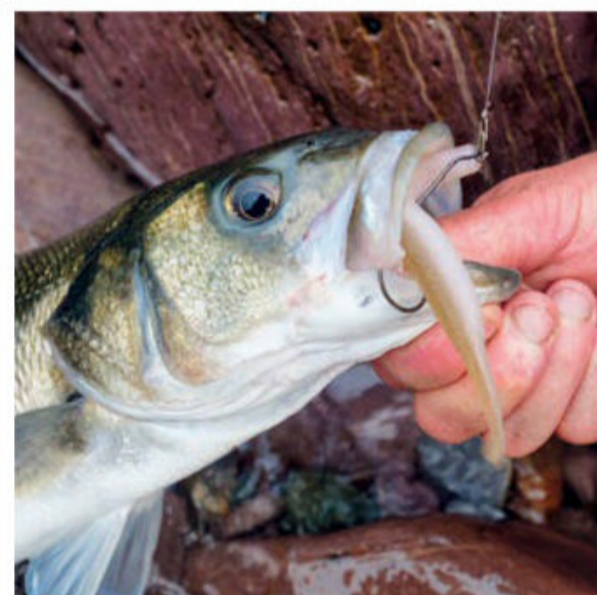
I don't target mackerel but when I have used a few feathers in the recent past I have also crushed the barbs with no detrimental effect on my catch rates. Unhooking is easier too.

As for bass and pollack, barbless trebles do not reduce my catch rates, although it's fair to say that using hooks without barbs requires a bit more thought and attention. Many anglers in the UK fight their fish incredibly lightly, and this can be a problem when there is no barb to keep the hook in the fish's mouth. I fight my fish really hard, and unless something goes wrong – like a bass running me over rocks or something similar – I always keep a very tight line to any hooked bass or

pollack, and my hooks don't fall out. All my biggest bass over recent years have come to barbless hooks.

Because barbless hooks make for easier unhooking, they are also easier to remove from our skin or clothing if something goes wrong. I have the occasional nightmare about being in the middle of an epic bass fishing session where 10lb-plus bass are everywhere, and they are starving hungry. In my nightmare I end up with three sets of barbed trebles in my hand and must leave the best fishing of my life to head for hospital. In real life I'd be fishing with barbless hooks, which would still hurt but at least I could get them out of my hands and carry on fishing.

On all my metal lures, such as the Savage Gear Surf Seeker, I use single hooks with the barbs crushed for fishing in the surf. All the weedless single hooks I use with my soft plastics



are barbless too and I don't lose fish because of it.

I have tried those specialist single hooks over the years, and, while crushing the barbs is a given, again I am not completely sure about their hook-up effectiveness when used on hard lures. When a fish is on a decent single hook it isn't coming off, but I've missed a few too many fish to be completely confident. To make myself feel better about fishing with barbless trebles on most of my hard lures I remove the middle treble because I can't see the need for it.

Q I don't get the whole weedless thing because I still pick up weed on my weedless lures. What's the point?

AIDAN NEWCOMBE,
WINCANTON, SOMERSET

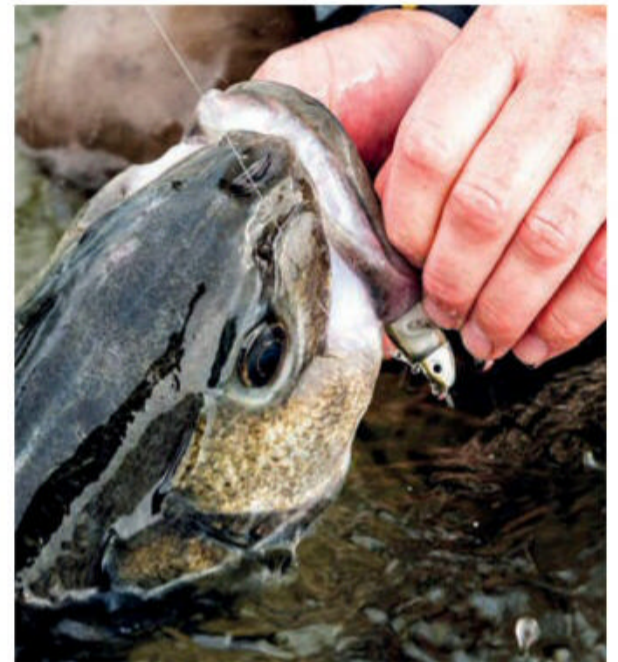
HG says: I agree, the word weedless doesn't always make a whole lot of sense. Like you, I was a bit confused when I began to use so-called weedless lures for bass fishing because I would pick up those infernal bits of weed that put off the fish. I like to think of weedless means there is much less chance of snagging, which is too much of a mouthful to put on a hook packet.

Yes, I can fish many of my weedless soft plastics, such as the Gravity Sticks, through beds of bladderwrack without any great hassle, but I am also using the likes of the Fiiish Black Minnow and its weedless design to allow me to work a lure along a rocky seabed with



less snagging than if I were using a paddletail on a jighead with a J-hook.

As with anything in fishing, it's all a learning curve and we tend to arrive at a greater understanding of various nuances over time. It can still annoy me though when there is lots of suspended weed around and I can't get a lure through it without picking some up.



Q Do I really need to spend serious amounts of money on a lure fishing rod?

ANDY DONNELLY, WARRINGTON, CHESHIRE

HG says: It is amazing these days how much lure fishing rod you can get for the money. In some respects there has always been some really good value for money fishing tackle out there, but modern lure rods are so different to those old and floppy spinning versions that many of us bought as a cheap add-on to our beachcasters.

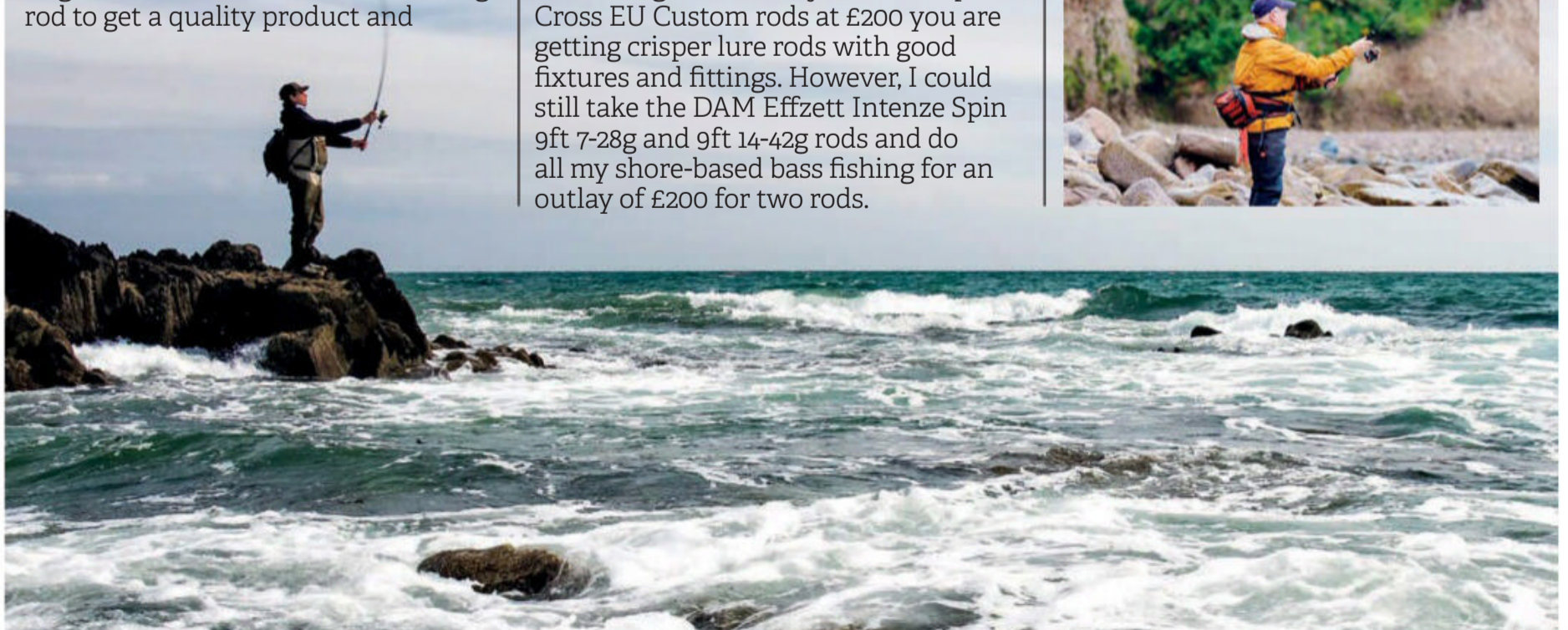
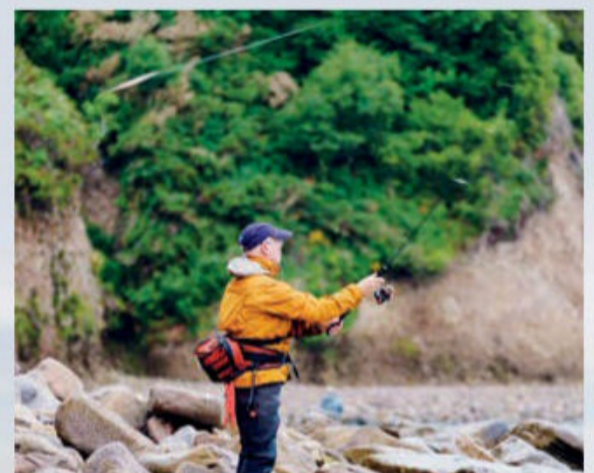
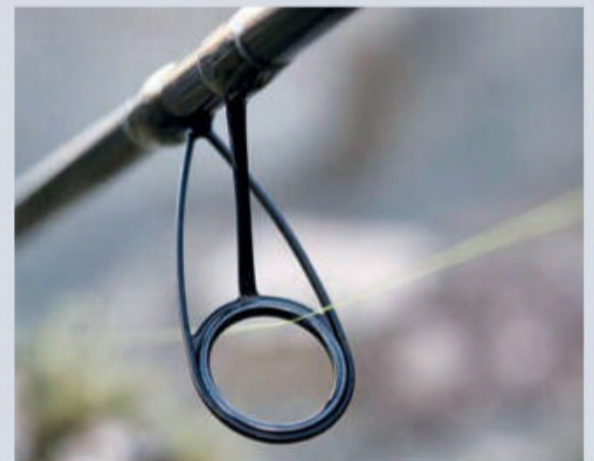
Therefore, you don't need to spend a huge amount of cash on a lure fishing rod to get a quality product and

catch plenty of fish, but as with almost everything in life you are often going to get better rods for more money.

It's the law of diminishing returns though because as stunning as say a £300 lure rod can be, is it really three times better than a lure rod costing £100? Of course not, but there is plenty of choice out there and we make our decisions based on how much we can or want to spend, and what we feel that we are getting for our money.

My feeling is that it's around the £100 mark – with something like the amazing DAM Effzett Intenze Spin – where you start to get a proper lure fishing rod that performs at a level with which I am entirely comfortable.

For sure when you move up to something like the Major Craft Triple Cross EU Custom rods at £200 you are getting crisper lure rods with good fixtures and fittings. However, I could still take the DAM Effzett Intenze Spin 9ft 7-28g and 9ft 14-42g rods and do all my shore-based bass fishing for an outlay of £200 for two rods.

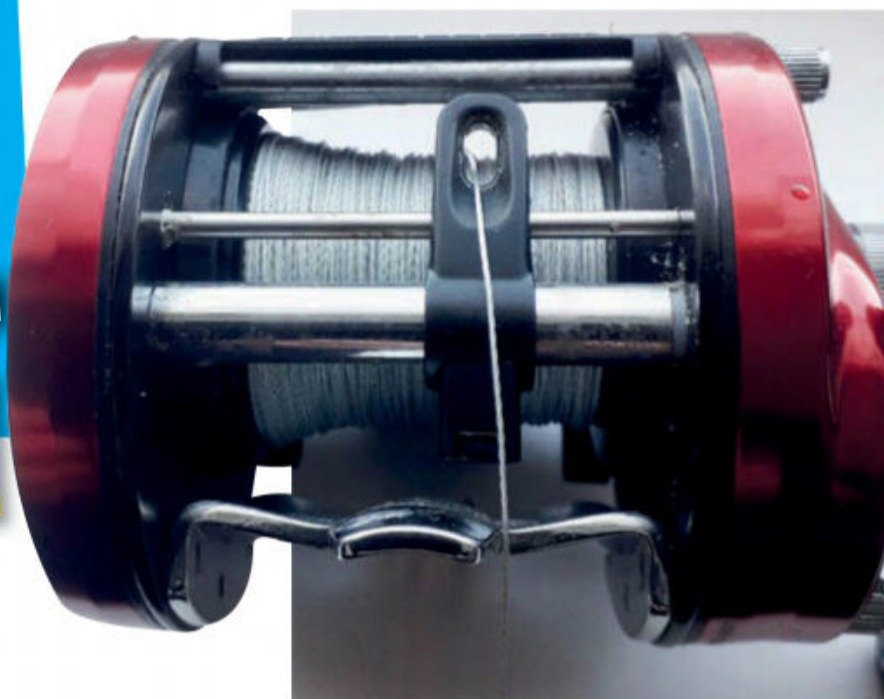


Q&A

BOAT ANGLING

WINNING QUESTION

The Abu 6601



Q I have a pair of Abu Ambassador SX-6601 left-hand reels for light uptide fishing and have loaded them with 30lb braid. Even with the level-wind, they seem to load to one side of the spool. Why is this happening?

MARTIN HATFIELD, AVELEY, ESSEX

DL says: Your question raises several important issues. The reel you have purchased was built with the intention of casting lures up to a couple of ounces, rather than for standard boat fishing. That said many anglers do use 6000 size reels afloat, and they were also once very popular with shore anglers, too.

Put very simply, many modern reels are not built anything like as substantially as those that were manufactured in the 1970s and 80s, and subsequently do not respond well when pushed beyond their ideal limits.

Hold an Abu 6000 from the 1970s in one hand and one produced more recently in the other, and you should feel a substantial difference in weight. Whereas the older reel incorporates

strong brass, the newer one has lighter metal and plastic, hence the difference in its durability.

What has happened to your reel is that the level-wind gearing, which guides the line evenly back on the spool, has been subjected to excessive pressure, which has damaged it. This can be fixed. My advice would be to remove the level-wind mechanism, leaving the reel frame intact to retain its strength. Without the level-wind the reel will function perfectly, indeed casting will be improved.

For light uptiding, I'd re-spool the reel with no more than 15lb monofilament, and if you require anything heavier than this, I suggest you upgrade the size of your reel.

Q When is the best time of day to fish?

DARREN BARBER, STEVENAGE, HERTS

DL says: Honest answer, I wish I knew. Everything depends on where and for what you are fishing. The stage of the tide is almost always a key factor in most types of sea angling.

Many predatory species are more active around dawn and dusk, and these are two of my favourite times to fish. In some areas when targeting certain species, fishing at night may well be the most productive. As always, the key to angling success is in first obtaining as much information about a venue and your target species, then putting either a bait or a lure in the water.



Q On our next trip to Norway, I intend targeting the big ling found on the reefs. Any advice on bait?

GEOFF BAKER, CHEPSTOW, MONMOUTHSHIRE

DL says: Big ling are very common in certain parts of Norway. Fish weighing in excess of 40lb, even 60lb, are not infrequently caught.

A few ling, possibly an increasing number, are caught in the far north of the country, but most are taken along the mid-section of the country, especially off the island of Hitra.

Whole mackerel or coalfish are ideal baits, rigged (as shown right) using heavy 200lb-plus monofilament and a couple of very sharp, very strong single hooks about size 4/0 to 8/0. Rig the bait head first, then tie the tail section to maintain the perfect presentation. The bait illustrated produced a fish that weighed nearly 50lb.



Q Is it possible to repair an outboard engine's propeller that is missing a blade?

OWEN YOUNG, NORTHALLERTON, NORTH YORKSHIRE

DL says: Many repairs to propeller damage are possible but before you decide to have it repaired, find out how much a new replacement will cost because it could be much cheaper.

Usually, it is more cost effective to replace a badly damaged alloy propeller (as shown) and only worth considering repairing either bronze or stainless steel propellers that are much more expensive to replace.



Q What are casting jigs and how heavy are they?

PADDY FAWCETT, WORTHING, WEST SUSSEX

DL says: Casting jigs are simply small pirks, typically weighing up to about four ounces (100g). These can be fished either vertically or, as the name implies, by using a suitable spinning rod and reel to cast and retrieve. They are very effective when fish are feeding in the higher level of the water column, especially for species such as pollack, coalfish, bass and cod. They're must-have lures for Norway.



Q When fishing on a boat with soft plastic lures, sometimes they get smashed by fish. I know there are glues out there but is there any product that has a quicker setting time.

LIAM TOBIN, MUMBLES, SWANSEA

DL says: Soft plastic lures are damaged easily by fish, even those without sharp teeth.

They are, however, very easy to repair using standard superglue, but must be completely dry in order to effect a good seal.

I have often repaired large and expensive shads, such as those used in Norway, by using plastic cable ties which really provide an excellent, quick, on the spot fix that will keep you fishing.

Q&A

KAYAK FISHING

Q Can you explain about anchoring a kayak, what equipment is required, the advantages and disadvantages, and where anchoring is and isn't permitted?

TYRONE MILLWARD, BASILDON, ESSEX

MC says: Anchoring a kayak is a basic and necessary skill you need to master and is made easier with thought of what, how and where you will be anchoring.

First of all, the things not to do – don't anchor in a navigation channel, tie up to navigation buoys or signals, and don't anchor near a harbour mouth or next to or downtide close to another vessel (without permission or agreement).

Often there are restrictions on anchoring marked on local charts, which may include inside or alongside harbours, windfarms and other working areas. Consider the safety of where you are anchoring in terms of current, proximity to rough water, rips, surges, rocks and other craft.

ANCHOR TROLLEY

Setting up a kayak for anchoring requires an anchor trolley system. An anchor trolley is not a trolley but a pulley system that allows an anchor or drogue to be run to any point along the kayak. This fitting is perfect for attaching to existing points such as mooring or lobster pot buoys or hard structure present in or close to the water.

They allow anchor attachment to be carried out next to the seat and the kayak trimmed thereafter to the safest position for the

conditions with pressure applied to the bow or stern. They also allow recovery of the anchor from either end and subsequently removed



The shockcord and pulley block

from the trolley when brought alongside the seating position once more.

I favour a full-length trolley and have them fitted to both port and starboard sides to allow for different wind or flow conditions, or for use alongside structure. This also provides a spare trolley in case one side ceases to function or has to be jettisoned for safety.

Ready-made kits are available off the shelf but parts are easy to source and a superior kit can be produced that is tailor made to the user's requirements.

END FITTINGS

The concept is to have a loop of freely running line that is connected in the centre by a clip, through which an anchor warp can be run and also absorb the shock from wind, waves and flow.

Before fitting, remember that for the optimum and safest performance the end

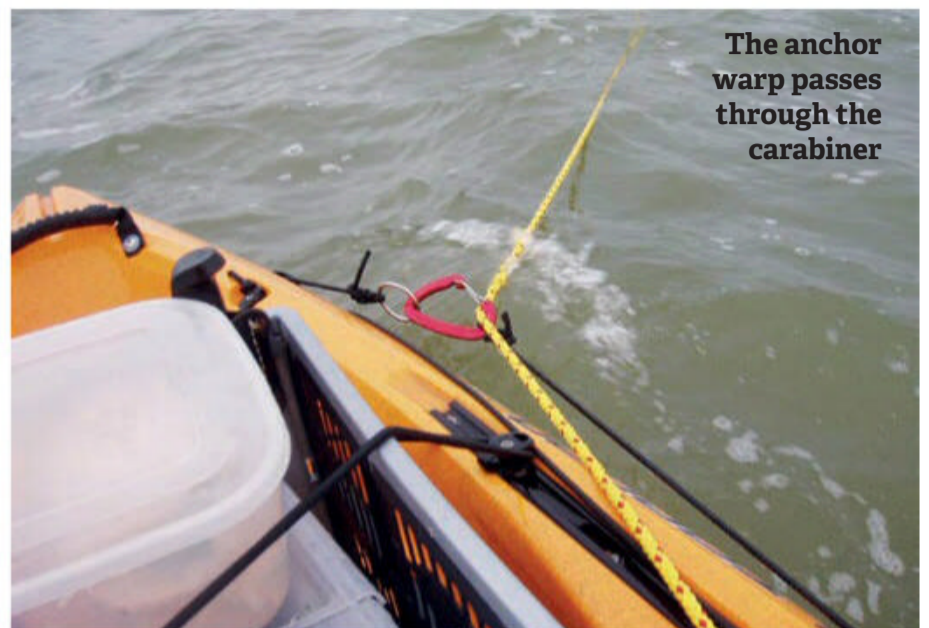


The trolley line, stainless rings and carabiner



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The anchor warp passes through the carabiner



The diver's reel and anchor

fittings must be positioned as close to the bow and stern as possible. It is also important to keep all lines running along the sides and not running over the deck.

Begin by attaching a small loop of shockcord at either end of the kayak. Existing fittings can be utilised where present, though a strap-eye attached to the hull in the optimum position is the best method. The shockcord is then looped through a pulley block. Your trolley line, which should be thin enough to cut through in one movement in an emergency, is now set to run through the cams of the pulley blocks. These should terminate at either end with a small stainless ring through which a carabiner is fitted to close the loop (this needs to be on the lower line).

Pull everything tight and fasten. It is important not to have much slack in the line because this creates drag and noise. It also makes taking hold of the lines more difficult, as well as increasing the likelihood of a snag at the

most inopportune moment.

There should now be a free-running loop of line from bow to stern, unhindered by anything which may cause it to seize when under pressure.

The next stage is to provide a means to lock the trolley in place. Side cleats are ideal for this, being low profile and ideal to position in an area that will keep the centre of the trolley from encroaching over the gunnels. It's as simple as that.

THE ANCHOR

To use, you now require a means to deploy a drogue, anchor or mooring line through the carabiner. Begin with the anchor itself. A 1kg Bruce anchor, the style I prefer over open ground, should hold a kayak effectively in flows up to three knots providing that sufficient warp is let out. This works like a plough and buries itself into the ground very efficiently. It should be fitted with either a weak link (a thin cable tie) or a bridle to ease recovery.

The next item you may wish to add to the anchor (I don't) is a section of chain. Attach the warp (this is the line between anchor and kayak) to the anchor or chain and then run it up to a diver's reel. The McMahon Large SMB reel is the best off the shelf version I've used. I suggest 2mm braided cord is the finest you should go in terms of line.

The capacity of the reel should be considered in relation to how much warp you will require to anchor effectively. The rule of thumb is to use a minimum of three times the depth of water in length, but I always use more, up to a 10:1 ratio in current.

The warp passes through the carabiner with the reel remaining inside the cockpit (to alter the amount of line out) or flung overboard to lock against the carabiner, which is now pulled to the stern or bow, setting the kayak in line with any flow.

Anchors must never be set or retrieved from the side because this reduces stability and brings the full



A cable tie creates a weak link between the anchor and cord

weight of the tide on to the side, which greatly increases the likelihood of a capsize. Instead, shuttle your warp to the bow or stern while setting anchor or shuttle it to the bow when retrieving.

The advantages are you can remain static to fish over a selected piece of ground that holds fish, be it a gully, bank, reef or wreck. You can position yourself to cast lures to an area that may hold other fish too and you can effectively bait the water ahead of you to attract fish. The disadvantages are you are a potential obstruction to other water users, you are more liable to capsize if your skills aren't up to scratch and, of course, you may be anchoring in the wrong place.

THREE-HOOK FLAPPER

Get on the road to making your own shore rigs with this simple starter

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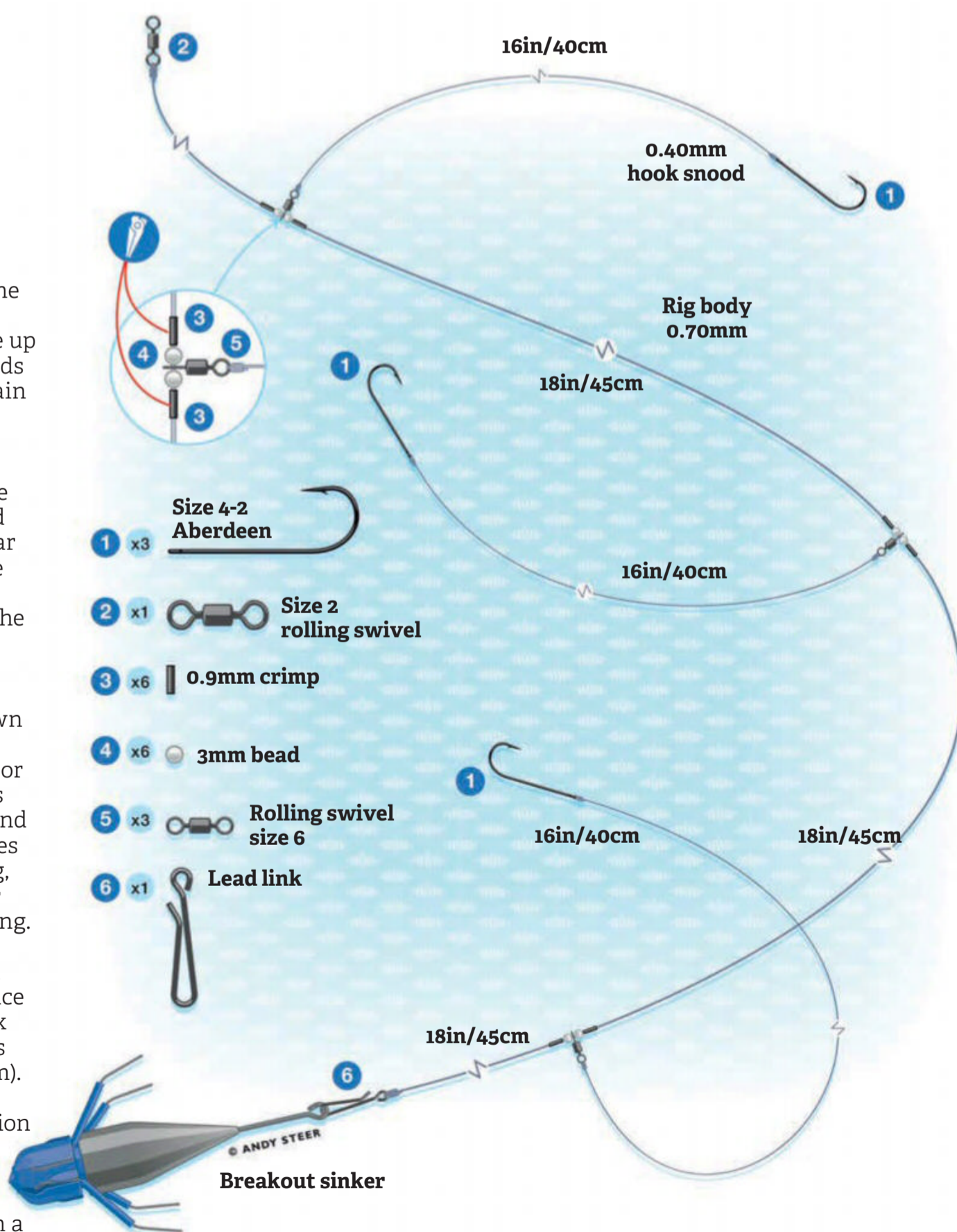
The paternoster is the basis of many sea angling rigs, where up to three hook snoods are fitted to the main body line.

Rigs where the hooklengths hang freely from the swivels are called flappers, while those allowing the hooks to be fitted on to cascade swivels or similar are known as clipped rigs. The latter are considered best for distance casting and protect the bait better during its journey through the air before hitting the water.

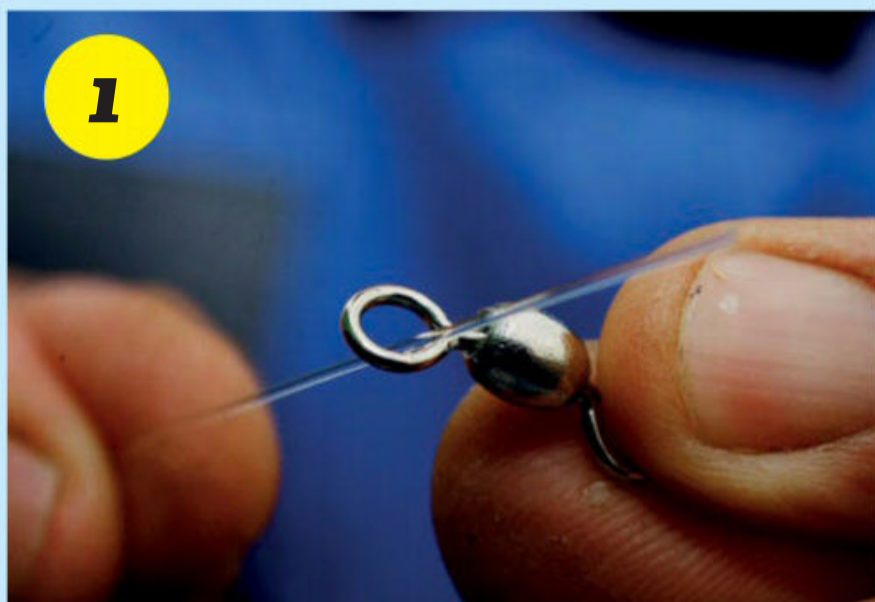
The three-hook flapper, shown here, is a versatile choice and often considered a scratching or catch-anything rig. Hook sizes can vary with, say, size 4, 3, 2 and 1 fine-wire versions for the likes of flounders, dabs and whiting, but stepping up to size 1, 1/0 or even 2/0 for coalfish and codling.

The main body of your rig should be 50lb (0.70mm) when using no more than a five-ounce weight or 60lb (0.75mm) for six ounces, while the hooklengths should be 18-25lb (0.40-0.50mm). Using beads and sequins on these snoods for extra attraction is optional.

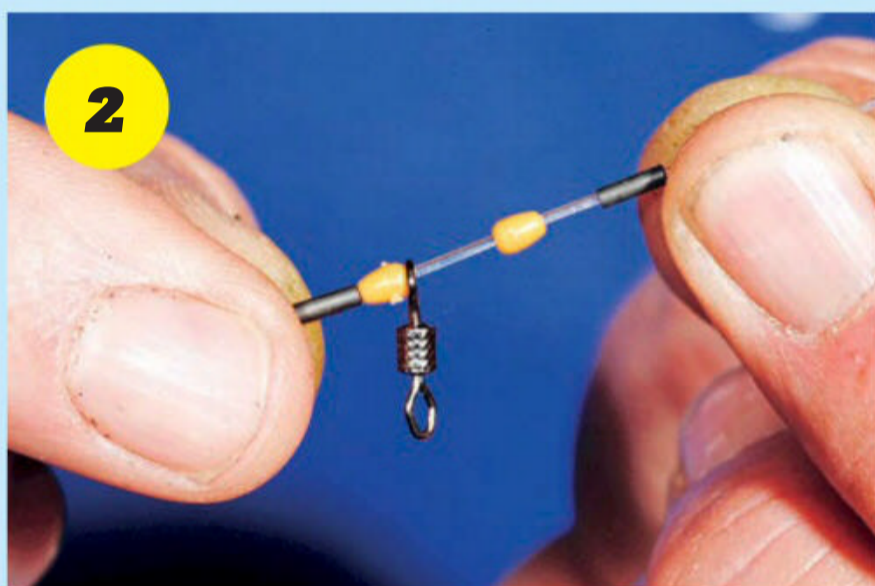
Store your rig wrapped on a foam winder or coiled into a small plastic bag and placed in a rig wallet.



Step-by-step



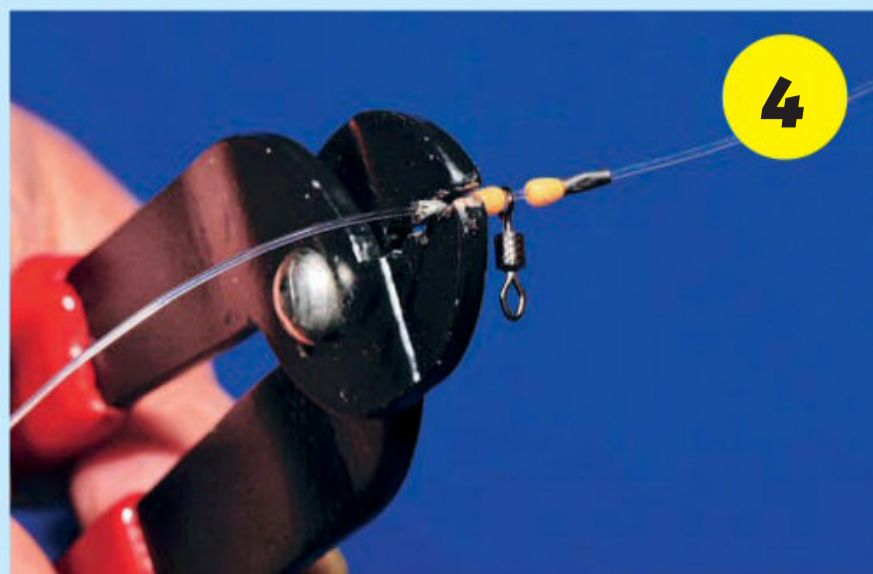
1
Tie a size 2 rolling swivel to the end of the body line. Cut the body line to length – 48in (122cm) to at most 72in (180cm), adding a few inches for the lead link knot.



2
Slide on the components – a crimp, bead, swivel, bead and crimp – and repeat twice more for the three hook snoods.



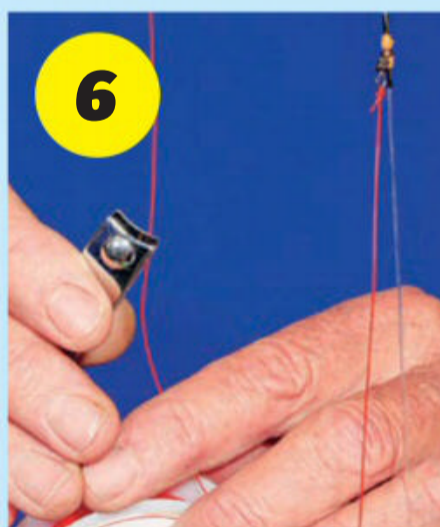
3
Now tie the lead link on the other end of the rig body to prevent all the components sliding off the line.



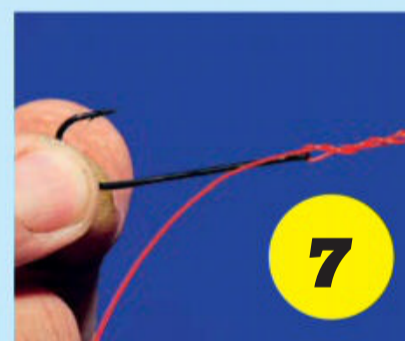
4
Move the components to their correctly spaced positions. For a 6ft (approx 180cm) rig body you could go to 18in (45cm) intervals between the swivels (less for a shorter rig body). Secure by squeezing the six crimps with crimping pliers.



5
Tie a snood line to each swivel.



6
Cut the line about level with the next swivel down. If you want to add sequins do this before tying on the hooks.



7
Tie on the hooks, leaving the snoods shorter than the gap between each swivel to prevent tangles. Here the snoods will be finish about 16in (40cm) long.

SEA FISHING KNOTS - FROM THE REEL TO THE HOOK

Contains clear, concise, easy to follow step-by-step knot-tying illustrations by Andy Steer of recommended sea fishing/big game fishing knots and set-ups.

This publication should help you to gain a solid base of reliable, tried and tested knots, enabling you to land more fish. It will also help you protect the environment and save money by losing less tackle.

Disclaimer: No responsibility in any way is accepted for incidents arising from the use of this material.

Paperback: www.amazon.co.uk/dp/9071747271/ref=cm_sw_em_r_mt_dp_9M.MFbWMHPV9S

eBook: www.amazon.co.uk/dp/B00S72QYX0/ref=cm_sw_em_r_mt_dp_FK.MFbZ4TKN89



BE A HAPPY RETURNER

Getting back into fishing often sparks a rush for new tackle, but here's why you should give your old gear a try first...

Your beloved tackle box and rod holdall have lain idle since the kids came along, but now the brood has left the nest, and maybe you're on the downhill run to retirement. Time to go fishing again. Time to get some nice new gear, for surely the old stuff can't cut it any more. Well, hold on a minute.

One thing I've learned from many, many people who came back to the beach for round two is that heading straight for the tackle shop can be a big mistake. It makes more sense to start with what you already have. Dust it off, buy some bait and get back on the beach. Maybe you'll love it; maybe this will be a one-off trip that tells you that fishing belongs in the past. You won't know until you try.

Many of today's returners probably did most of their fishing in the 1980s and 1990s, that golden era with huge strides in rod development, better casting and fishing techniques, and more innovative bits and pieces than you could shake a

stick at. Those old Cono-flex, Zziplex, Century and Daiwa rods are not only perfectly usable today but might suit you a lot better. Reels? If a casting multiplier was good back then, it is good now. Today's fixed spools are sleeker, lighter, smoother, but the old ones still do the business.

ALARM BELLS

One killer reason to revive our old rods is because most were designed with a beautiful balance between fishing and casting that is sadly lacking on so many new rods. If a few sessions with our old pendulum rods suggests that through age and rustiness we cannot make

them work as well as we once could, the alarm bells should start to ring.

A cheap modern pendulum rod is probably stiffer and more demanding than, say, that thoroughbred of its era the Quattr – and that needed more steam behind it than most anglers could raise. Time takes its toll, and we are not the same people we were back then, so chances are that an old rod will feel meatier than it used to simply because we're less fit and agile.

I'm not saying that coming back into fishing means never upgrading to the latest equivalent of whatever your old favourite gear happened to be. But feedback from so many people taking a second crack at the sport convinces me of the need to think hard before committing. Tackle sales suggest that many returners end up with long Euro-style rods and fixed spools which they fish alongside their old gear. They can't all be wrong. It isn't a case of bottling out.

I'm still attracted to the latest super-casting pendulum rods but also realistic enough to know that many are beyond my capabilities. That's why at the moment I favour my old classic pendulum rods such as the Cono-flex 240T. But I am increasingly drawn to the long rod combo with its effortless performance that makes fishing easy and a pleasure. The lazy way out sometimes makes sense. ■

Follow all the latest news, catches and photos from Century on

[facebook.com/Century.Sea.Fishing](https://www.facebook.com/Century.Sea.Fishing)

IMAX
SeaWave Floatation Suit

Competitive modern-looking 1pcs Floatation suit conforming to the CE & International ISO 12402-5 Standards

- Heavy duty 75x75D 100% polyester pongee shell fabric
- 100% waterproof of more than 8.000mm
- Very light-weight with low-density EPE buoyancy foam
- Soft 210T 100% polyester taffeta lining Jacket



RRP £169.99

OUR PRICE

£149.99

CODE	SIZE
SV19075	S
SV19076	M
SV19077	L
SV19078	XL
SV19079	2XL
SV19080	3XL

IMAX
Oceanic Thermo Suit

NEW

This 2-piece suit will keep you warm and dry on windy, cold days. When going on a boat, fishing on the pier or standing by the bank of the lake, the last thing you need to think about, is how to keep warm. This suit will protect you from Mother nature.



RRP £134.99

OUR PRICE

£99.99

CODE	SIZE
SV21738	S
SV21739	M
SV21740	L
SV21741	XL
SV21742	2XL

Leeda
ICON Smock & Bib n' Brace

A smart waterproof and breathable smock and matching bib and brace suit. The comfortable fit makes it a perfect outer layer which gives you full season protection by just varying your mid and base layers. The hard wearing double layer outer material has double taped and fully sealed seams and is fully waterproof and windproof. It is also breathable to help keep you comfortable.



RRP £119.99

OUR PRICE

£89.99

CODE	SIZE
LD14567	M
LD14568	L
LD14569	XL
LD14570	2XL

IMAX
Ocean 1pc Floatation Suit

SALE

- Very lightweight of under 2kg
- Heavy duty 75x75D 100% polyester pongee shell fabric
- 100% waterproof of more than 8.000mm
- Low density EPE buoyancy foam
- Soft 210T 100% polyester taffeta lining
- Heavy duty 2-way front zip with double storm flaps
- High inner fleece-lined collar



RRP £169.99

OUR PRICE

£85

CODE	SIZE
SV16498	L
SV16499	XL
SV16500	2XL

stillwater
Polar PVC Wellington Boots & Lining

The rugged PVC construction keeps out the water, while the removable fleece liner keeps the heat in.



ALL SIZES

RRP: £29.99

£19.99

CODE	SIZE
RE0509	6
RE0511	7
RE0512	8
RE0513	9
RE0515	10/10.5
RE0516	11
RE0517	12

PENN **Squadron 2 SW Spinning Rods**

A modern design with advanced sporting performance, the Penn Squadron II SW Spin is a solid, durable and lightweight blank and packs plenty of casting power for saltwater lure fishing.

CODE	LEN	CASTS	PCS	RRP	NOW
PE1839	8ft	50-100g	2	£69.99	£66.99
PE1840	8ft	75-150g	2	£69.99	£66.99
PE1831	8ft	15-40g	2	£59.99	£55.99
PE1832	9ft	20-50g	2	£59.99	£55.99
PE1833	10ft	20-60g	2	£64.99	£61.99

PENN **Wrath Spinning Combos**

NEW

Carbon spinning rods that are matched with the great PENN Wrath reels.

CODE	LENGTH	CASTS	PCS	NOW
PE2114	7ft	10-40g	2	£69.99
PE2115	8ft	20-40g	2	£74.99
PE2116	8ft	80-120g	2	£74.99
PE2117	9ft	30-60g	2	£74.99
PE2118	9ft	100-150g	2	£81.99
PE2119	10ft	20-80g	2	£89.99

PENN **MAG4 Star Drag Multipliers**

The 515 Mag4 is perfect for targeting tough ground bass as well as general beach work, but with its greater line capacity the 525 MAG4 is the reel to choose for long range beach and mixed ground fishing.



CODE	MODEL	CAPACITY	PRICE
PE2287	515	275yds/12lb	£149.99
PE2288	525	280yds/15lb	£160.99

Best Selling Century Rods

CODE	MODEL	LGTH	CASTS	PRICE
CN0394	Fireblade Surf	13ft	4-6oz	£259.00
CN0092	Tip Tornado Sport	13ft 6	4-8oz	£450.00
CN0060	Excalibur C Beach	13ft 10	3.5-7oz	£499.00
CN0064	Excalibur TT Beach	14ft 10	3.5-8oz	£625.00
CN0058	Eliminator T1000	14ft 10	4-8oz	£625.00
CN0153	Eliminator T700	15ft	4-7oz	£545.00
CN0154	Eliminator T1200	13ft 6	4-7oz	£645.00

VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO SEE OUR HUGE STOCK OF CENTURY RODS, INCLUDING BASS, BOAT & SPINNING RODS!

PENN **Rampage 2 Surf Rod**

The New Rampage II Surf rods are constructed from a blend of 24-ton carbon and featuring Fuji rings throughout perfect for almost all aspects of beach angling around the UK shores.

CODE	LEN	CASTS	PCS	OUR PRICE
PE1807	14ft	80-120g	3	£144.99
PE1806	14ft	120-170g	3	£169.99
PE1805	15ft	170-225g	3	£164.99

PENN **Rampage 2 Boat Rods**

CODE	LEN	CASTS	PCS	OUR PRICE
PE1706	7ft8	12-20lb	4	£75.00
PE1707	7ft6	20-30lb	4	£75.00
PE1708	7ft4	30-50lb	4	£79.99
PE1709	7ft4	50lb	2	£79.99
PE1710	7ft6	30lb	2	£89.99

CODE	LEN	CASTS	PCS	OUR PRICE
PE1703	8ft	6-12lb	2	£76.00
PE1704	8ft2	12-20lb	2	£80.00
PE1705	8ft2	20-30lb	2	£89.99

PENN **Squall Low Profile**

Fantastic new range of Saltwater Lure Bait Casters with all the durability you would expect from PENN.



CODE	MODEL	CAPACITY	PRICE
PE2293	200LP LHW	235yds/20lb	£159.99
PE2294	300LP RHW	310yds/20lb	£179.99
PE2295	300LP LHW	310yds/20lb	£179.99
PE2296	400LP LHW	285yds/30lb	£224.99

PENN **Tidal Surfcasting Rods**

NEW

Tidal stands for everything you need for surfcasting: Super strong but lightweight and responsive 30T carbon blanks that are designed to have the best distance properties.

CODE	LEN	CASTS	PCS	NOW
PE2301	14ft	50-200g	3	£109.99
PE2302	14ft	100-225g	3	£109.99
PE2303	14ft	100-250g	3	£109.99
PE2304	14ft	100-300g	3	£109.99

SONIK **Black Shore Rods**

BEST SELLER

The SKS Black Shore Rods bring the world of top end surf rods to a whole new accessible level.

CODE	MODEL	LEN	CASTS	PCS	NOW
SO0244	Multiplier	12ft	4-6oz	2	£79.99
SO0245	Multiplier	13ft	4-6oz	2	£89.99
SO0246	Multiplier	14ft	5-7oz	2	£99.99
SO0360	Fixed Spool	12ft	4-6oz	2	£79.99
SO0361	Fixed Spool	13ft	4-6oz	2	£89.99
SO0362	Fixed Spool	14ft	5-7oz	2	£99.99

IRONPENN **Banzai Beachcasters**

NEW

A brand new range of rods designed to cover every fishing style and situation you can dream of.

CODE	MODEL	LEN	CASTS	PCS	NOW
TX9024	Light	12ft 6	55-140g	2	£139.99
TX9025	Match	13ft	85-170g	2	£144.99
TX9026	Beach	13ft 10	110-200g	2	£149.99
TX9027	Power	13ft 10	140-225g	2	£155.99

IRONPENN **Banzai BZ Beachcasters**

NEW

CODE	LEN	CASTS	PCS	NOW
TX9031	13ft 9	110-170g	3	£132.99
TX9032	14ft 9	110-170g	3	£139.99

CODE	LEN	CASTS	PCS	NOW
TX9033	13ft 9	140-200g	3	£136.99
TX9034	14ft 9	140-200g	3	£146.99

CODE	LEN	CASTS	PCS	NOW
TX9035	13ft 9	170-225g	3	£142.99
TX9036	14ft 9	170-225g	3	£152.99

Shakespeare **Agility 2 Rod Series**

A fast taper, lightweight blank made from high grade carbon and designed to be held for long periods.

CODE	MODEL	LEN	CASTS	PCS	NOW
SP3936	Uptide	9ft 6	5-10oz	2	£75.00
SP3937	MPV	10ft	2-4oz	3	£60.00
SP3938	Bass	11ft 6	2-4oz	3	£76.00
SP3939	Flatlie	10ft 6	1-3oz	3	£62.00

Shakespeare **Agility 2 Boat Rod Series**

These rods feature lightweight, fast actioned, yet powerful blanks designed to maximise bite detection.

CODE	MODEL	LEN	CASTS	PCS	NOW
SP3940	Boat	7ft	20lb	2	£40.00
SP3941	Boat	7ft	30lb	2	£40.00
SP3943	Braid	8ft	12-20lb	2	£62.00
SP3944	Braid	8ft	20-30lb	2	£50.00
SP3945	Expedition	7ft	20-30lb	4	£50.00
SP3946	Expedition	7ft	20-50lb	4	£50.00

Shakespeare **Agility 2 Bass & Beach Rods**

The Agility 2 Expedition will prove very popular for the modern sea fisherman. The strength of these multi piece rods is exceptional and the action has not been adversely effected by the addition of the extra spigots.

CODE	MODEL	LEN	CASTS	PCS	NOW
SP3934	Bass	11ft	60-120g	5	£80.00
SP3935	Beach	11ft 6	120-240g	5	£90.00

Shakespeare **Agility Saltwater FD Reel**

The Agility Saltwater FD reels deliver a quality, saltwater proof reel for a great price. Holds up to 150m of 12lb mono or 300m of 30lb braid.



SAVE £25!

CODE	MODEL	CAPACITY	RRP	NOW
SP4008	40	150m/12lb	£55.00	£30.00

Leeda **ICON FXD Beach Rods**

SALE

- Made from Torayco® carbon
- Fuji K Guides
- Fuji DPS reel seat
- Spliced Carbon hybrid tip
- Ergonomically designed Rubber grips

CODE	MDL	LEN	CASTS	PCS	RRP	NOW
LD14565	Elite	14ft	100-200g	3	£349.99	£195
LD14566	Elite	15ft	100-200g	3	£359.99	£195

Abu Garcia **Max Pro Bass Spinning Combo**

The MAX PRO combos are light, modern, strong and reliable spinning combos for bass fishing. The rods are made of strong and light weight 24T carbon material and are equipped with high quality LTS guides.

CODE	LEN	CASTS	PCS	CAPACITY	NOW
PU11143	7ft 6	15-40g	2	180yd/10lb	£85.00
PU11146	9ft	15-40g	2	210yd/14lb	£90.00
PU11147	9ft	30-80g	2	210yd/14lb	£102.99

FISHEAGLE **Bait Pump**

Finished in stainless steel and available in a choice of 28 and 50mm sizes, the Fish Eagle Bait Pump will save you hours of back breaking work retrieving fresh bait.

BACK IN STOCK!

CODE	SIZE	RRP	NOW
RE0230	50mm	£49.99	£39.99
RE0231	28mm	£49.99	£34.99

SAVAGE GEAR **Gravity Stick Kit**

A slim-profile, long-casting range of soft lures with a high specific gravity. This 30pc+17pc kit is ideal for those seeking to fish with these brand new lures but need each colour in the 3 tail types with hooks and weights.

BACK IN STOCK!

SV22099

RRP: £34.99

£29.99



FIRST LOOK

Your update on the latest gear arriving in the tackle shops

CENTURY COOL BAG

RRP: £49.95

It's rather expensive but the latest addition to the Century range of sea angling accessories is this cool bag, designed to keep your bait in prime condition throughout your session.

Measuring 34cm x 30cm x 24cm other top features include:

- Adjustable padded shoulder strap
- Padded carrying handles
- Zipped top access and front accessory pocket
- Two open-topped mesh end pockets
- Reflective foil liner for maximum insulation
- Under-lid mesh pocket to hold ice pack (ice pack not supplied)
- Removable plastic liner to ensure no leakage and easy cleaning
- Heavy-duty blue fabric with reinforced base

■ For more info or to locate a stockist, visit: www.centurysea.co.uk



FISHING HAND TOWEL

RRP: £8

Are you fed up with your mate constantly nicking your hand wiping towel during a session? You can easily solve the problem by having yours clearly marked with your name on it. It's made from 100 per cent cotton and comes equipped with a clip for attaching to your belt, tackle box or tripod. For a neat personal touch, you can have the name and logo of your club, boat or organisation added.

■ Order from www.little-pigasus.co.uk



NASH CASTING GLOVE

RRP: £9.99

When casting with a fixed-spool reel, I much prefer to wear a glove rather than a fingerstall, and this one from Nash is absolutely perfect. It features a hard-wearing palm with a fantastic grip together with comfortable suede finger grips. The main casting finger is reinforced with Kevlar to enhance protection even further. It's a universal fit with an elastic cuff and a Velcro fastening for comfort. Available in both right and left-handed versions.

■ Available from www.anglingdirect.co.uk



RATING SYSTEM

Our testers and reviewers use their experience to evaluate the quality and functionality of tackle to provide independent, credible and authoritative advice for our readers. On some pages, you may see the following endorsements

SeaAngler
EXPERT
CHOICE

Tackle which our testers or reviewers recommend to our audience.

SeaAngler
BEST
BUY

Tackle we believe is the best when tested or reviewed against direct competitor products.

SeaAngler
★★★★★
5 STAR

Some products reviewed will be awarded a star rating ranging from 0-5.

PENN SURFBLASTER III 8000LC

RRP: £149.99

The Surfblaster III fixed-spool reel from Penn features 5+1 sealed stainless-steel ball bearings, a smooth HT-100 drag system and a shallow conical spool for improved distance when casting. Oscillation is unbelievably slow to ensure a perfect line-lay, while the large T-knob handle offers comfort and a steady crank. It also comes with a spare, deeper spool when you need to load more mainline for deeper marks. It is also available in 7000-size.

■ For more info or nearest stockist, visit: www.penn-fishing.co.uk

SeaAngler
EXPERT
CHOICE

SeaAngler
BEST
BUY

VASS R BOOT

RRP: £62.50

These new boots from Vass feature a fixed fur liner for added warmth and incredible comfort due to their three-quarter size. The upper body of the boot, and ankle, shin and toe areas are double reinforced. The ladder grip on the chunky sole has been reinforced too and really stands out, making it especially good for walking over rocks or boulders. The deep heel kick is a neat touch to help when removing the boots.

Available in sizes 6-12 with studded versions too.

■ For more info or to locate a stockist, visit: www.vassrainwear.co.uk



The spool
has plenty of
line capacity

TACKLE ITEMS INVARIABLY CHANGE WITH the times, especially rods and reels, and with modern technology continuously moving forward at pace, then they become more efficient and dependable.

One particular item that's definitely caused a stir in shore angling circles in recent times is the fixed-spool reel. Once frowned upon as a reel for novices, this simple piece of tackle has certainly gained a resurgence among anglers and ultimately claimed its status as a firm favourite.

One company that appears to be keeping up with anglers' demands is Daiwa. This major player never seems to rest and is constantly on the ball when it comes to quality, price and performance. It's accepted that some of its high-end kit can be out of some angler's budget expectations, but this is where Daiwa do excel, and by that, I mean they can incorporate some revolutionary aspects of an item, yet still keep the price to an affordable amount. And one of those items is the Crosscast Surf reel.

TOP PERFORMER

Straight out of the box, this model bears all the hallmarks expected of a classy reel. Looks alone aren't its only attribute. Not only has Daiwa developed this model to cope with the everyday shore fishing but also it has managed to slip in the same quality that most of its flagship reels boast too.

Consider aspects such as Airrotor, Digigear, Slow Cross Wrap (SCW) and QD (Quick Drag). Yes, believe it or not, this reel has them all. Combine that with strength, a 4.9:1 crank, a maximum drag of 15kg, and a decent spool capacity of 300 yards of 0.35mm mono, then you begin to understand that this reel is by no means mediocre. In fact, I reckon Daiwa could easily be accused of under-pricing this reel. At a recommended retail price of £99.99, in return you get a reel that not only oozes quality and class, but a performance that is well ahead of many others in its price range.

The downside is the fact that there is no spare spool included and it could be considered on the heavy side at 625g. That said, the weight isn't an issue for me, especially if I'm hooked into decent fish like as a thornback ray or smoothhound. The fact it has a sturdy build means I can lean on it harder. Neither does the lack of a spare spool bother me; If I need one, I'll buy one.

Casting-wise, it performs with flying colours. The mainline flies off the spool smoothly and efficiently and this is all down to the Slow Cross Wrap. With its dependable and slow spool oscillation, you are assured of a perfect line-lay on each retrieve. If you also add on the fact that 103cm of mainline fills the spool with each turn of the handle, you can be sure your rig will rise high in the water quickly, away from snags in rough ground.

With such quality at less than a hundred quid, it seems Daiwa has set a new standard for the other manufacturers to consider. ■

QUALITY ON A BUDGET

This fixed spool packs many of the features you've come to expect in top of the range reels

SeaAngler
EXPERT
CHOICE

DAIWA CROSSCAST SURF 35 SCW
5000C QD FIXED-SPOOL REEL
RRP: £99.99



You get many of the features of more expensive reels

SPECIFICATIONS

- DAIWA CROSSCAST SURF 35 SCW 5000C QD
- WEIGHT: 625g
- MAXIMUM DRAG: 15kg
- BEARINGS: Three
- CAPACITY: 300yd/0.35mm
- RETRIEVE: 103cm
- CRANK: 4.9:1

Key features

Airrotor, Digigear, Slow Cross Wrap, Quick Drag, aluminium handle, manual bale-arm, Twist Buster II line roller, and infinite anti-reverse.

For more information or to locate your nearest Daiwa stockist, visit: www.daiwasports.co.uk

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every six months**
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August 19th 2021**

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DIGITAL

Pay just £29.99 for 13 issues



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READER OFFER

Get this superb Icon three-piece rod for just £180

Take advantage of this incredible shore rod deal...

**SAVE
£170!**

FREE* post and packing,
UK mainland only.
Email for overseas
rates.

TECH SPEC

- Made from Torayco carbon
- Fuji KWAG guides
- Fuji fixed DPS reel seat
- Spliced Carbon hybrid tip
- Ergonomically designed rubber grips
- Optimum casting weight of 100-200g
- Length: 14ft or 15ft

The three-piece Icon FXD Elite shore rods are made from Torayco carbon and are equipped with Fuji KWAG guides and a fixed Fuji reel seat. The grips are made from rubber, but have been ergonomically designed to give the best grip and added comfort.

There is a choice of two lengths – 14ft or 15ft – and each offers a casting weight up to 200g, with a higher level of power for incredible distance casting.

Normally, this rod would set you back £349.99 but it could be yours today for just £180* – putting a cool £169.99 back into your pocket and a deal you cannot afford to miss.

Ordering couldn't be easier – we've created three easy ways (below). Give the helpful staff at the Fishing Megastore a call, place your order and leave the rest to them. ■

THREE EASY WAYS TO ORDER

1. **LOG ON** to the link gac.fishing/00179SA
2. **CALL** 0141 212 8880 and quote 00179SA
3. **BY POST** Glasgow Angling Centre, Unit 1, 29 Saracen ST, Glasgow G22 5HT and quote 00179SA

*Please make cheques payable to 'Glasgow Angling Ltd'.

**RELY ON
SEA ANGLER
TO BRING YOU
GREAT TACKLE DEALS
EVERY ISSUE**

(*P&P FREE)

Shore fishing in summer usually offers more species to target, meaning your tackle needs to be up to the task...here we show you the correct gear for success

THE KIT YOU NEED FOR...

SUMMER

Warmer weather often means species like tope, smoothhound, rays and bass will turn up at many shore venues. If you can avoid the crowds, who will more than likely be targeting mackerel, there is some explosive action to be had from the beach while enjoying hot sunny days.

COOL BAG OR BOX ▶

Warm weather can destroy your fresh bait in a short time so a decent cool bag or box can be used to store bait and other bits of kit such as scissors and bait elastic. Wrap ice packs in newspaper and place them in your cool bag or box to keep it fresh or frozen.

■ TRONIXPRO 5-LITRE COOL BOX: £20.89



TRIPOD

Using a tripod allows you to fish with two rods at varying distances and helps while you're preparing a spare baited trace. Make sure it's anchored and stable, and make sure your reel clutch is set to prevent larger species dragging it into the sea

■ IAN GOLDS TELESCOPIC TRIPOD: RRP: £31.99 - £42.99



RIGS

With so many species on offer, it would be wise to carry a selection of rigs armed with varying sizes of hooks. Generally, a one-up, one-down rig covers all bases but remember that some fish have rough skin such as hounds, bull huss, tope and rays, so it's wise to use stronger hook snoods – or even wire traces.

Bream and garfish tend to be higher in the water and using pop-up rigs equipped with floating beads will bring far better results.

■ CARDYLON TRACE WIRE: RRP: £5.50

■ TRONIXPRO GLOW BALLS: RRP: £2.19 PER PACK

ROD AND REEL

Choice all depends on what species you're likely to be targeting. If it's hard and fast-running fish like smoothhounds or tope, then you need to beef up your tackle with a stronger rod, reel and mainline. However, if it's bream, mullet or flatfish you will be better scaling down to much lighter versions.



LEAD WEIGHTS

Light plain rolling sinkers allow your baited rig to move with the tide, but a breakout-style lead weight means you can fish effectively in the feeding zone when the fish eventually come through.



BAIT

Fish baits such as mackerel or frozen sandeels can be deadly and are easy to obtain from local tackle shops or online home delivery options. Peeler crabs should be in abundance in many regions and can be collected yourself by rummaging around the rocks and weed at low tide.

■ **HOOKERS BAITS:**
www.hookersbaits.co.uk,
tel: 01253 860505



MAINLINE

Light mainlines are ideal when targeting bream, mullet, gurnards and garfish, especially when using a small fixed-spool reel. When power casting from the shore, it's wise to increase your mainline to around 18lb and add an adequate shockleader.

■ **TRONIXPRO BLAZE MAINLINE:** RRP: £8.99

FOOTWEAR

Often, you may need to wade through water to reach a mark such as beyond a sand bar at low tide, or on to a rock skeer through a kelp-filled gully. Chest waders are essential but generally a decent pair of hiking boots will be ideal from a shingle bank, rocks, pier or promenade.

■ **TF GEAR X-TUFF WATERPROOF BOOTS:**
RRP: £44.99



ESSENTIALS

Don't forget that the weather in a British summer can change quickly, and you should always be prepared for rain by having a lightweight waterproof suit. A sunhat or peaked cap will protect your head from a hot sun and polaroid sunglasses are a must and help prevent constant squinting in the bright sunlight. Sunscreen is essential. Have plenty of fluids to drink.

■ **ECRAN SUN PROTECTION SENSITIVE SPRAY 250ML:**
RRP: £7.99



BOAT STORE

A guide to new products for anglers going afloat

POCKET MATE

The ultra-compact Pocket Mate is a weather-resistant, USB rechargeable personal light that delivers 325 lumens and features convenient hands-free options.

Small enough to carry in a pocket, the device, from Streamlight, features an anodised spring clip that attaches to zips or key chains, and clips on to hats, visors and clothing.

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Featuring a lithium polymer battery, the light charges from any USB power source and includes a charge status indicator. The light's multi-function switch is recessed to prevent accidental use.



Constructed from an impact-resistant polycarbonate and a machined aluminium frame, it measures two inches long and weighs just over 14 grams. Rated IPX4 for weather-resistant operation, it is also impact-resistance tested to one metre.

It costs just £26 and includes a two-year warranty.

■ For more details, visit: www.streamlight.com

UPGRADE FOR BOATING APP

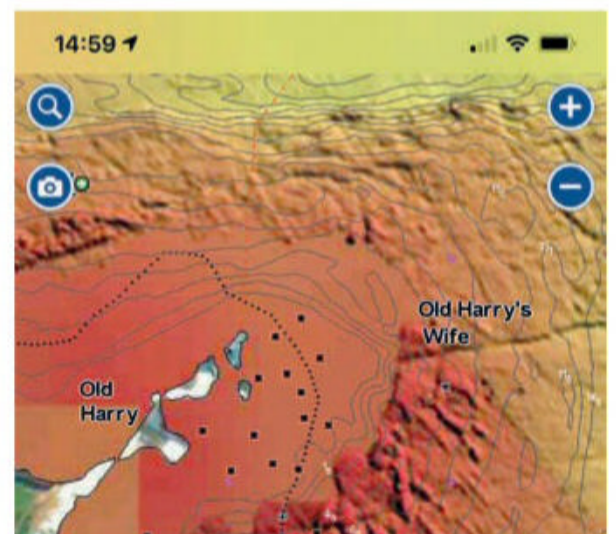
With up to 5,000 updates every day across the globe, the Navionics Boating App has loads of new features, and includes a relief shading function.

Relief shading combines colour and shadow to provide an easy-to-interpret, clearer view of bottom structure than contour lines alone, while the SonarChart Shading gives a detailed rendering of the sea floor and can help you identify the areas richest in fish.

There's also AIS overlay available when you connect the Boating App to a compatible wi-fi AIS receiver, and there are hourly updates of weather and tide data.

Latest bathymetry updates include Beaulieu Marina, Chichester and Elmer beach, Cowes and Medina Wharf and the River Medina, Eastbourne's Sovereign Harbour, Falmouth, Fowey, Langstone, Littlehampton, the River Arun, Lymington, Padstow, Plymouth, Ramsgate, Folkestone and Weymouth.

■ For more visit: www.navionics.com



RIDER VEST

Specially designed for sports on the water, this low-bulk, front zip entry, comfortable buoyancy aid has become a proven favourite, providing 50 Newtons of buoyancy for just £45.

It features a soft foam front for comfort, PE foam at the back for added support, stability and protection, zipped front for quick and easy entry, and a Velcro closure front pocket. The vest is certified to ISO 124025 and is available in four sizes and four colours.

■ For more details, visit: www.hellyhansen.com



FIRST FOR CHEETAH



The latest 10.2 metre Cheetah is the first catamaran in Europe to feature two of Yamaha's new XTO 425hp outboards. The vessel travelled from Cheetah's Isle of Wight base to Nieuwpoort, Belgium, and will be used for fishing trips in the Channel and North Sea. It has been

built for Steve Rosseau, a boat owner for 10 years and an angler since childhood.

With its XTO 425hp engines, it the most powerful Cheetah built to date. It has a 2.6m wheelhouse with a raised workspace featuring spacious seating for five.

Cheetah launches a 11.5m x 4.3m series later this year.

■ For info, tel: 01983 852398.

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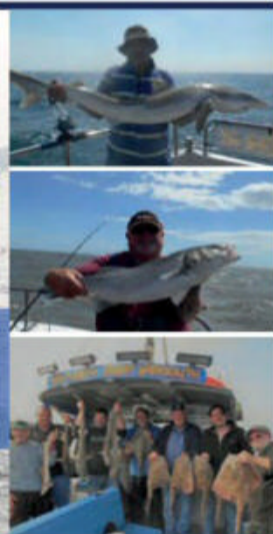
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10 minutes with.. **BILLY BUCKLEY**

The international match angler talks about the highs and lows for Scotland and reveals an amusing practical joke on two teammates

ABOUT 10 YEARS AGO WHEN I WAS getting back into sea angling, I discovered a local club, The Corinthians SAC, in Glasgow. Billy Buckley and Iain Graham, whose names will be familiar to those who fish matches, were two of its leading lights.

Having found a club for myself and my then pre-teen son Keir, we both learned a lot thanks to their experience and inspirational qualities. Meeting other club members, we enjoyed the banter and good-natured ribbing, which was a highlight of those early years back on the sea angling scene. I met some great people who remain close friends too.

Our experiences were very much driven by the club, which has now closed, and the influence of Billy, who is an international match angler and now a team manager for Scotland. A pro-staffer for Tronixpro in the UK, Billy, who was brought up on the Ayrshire coast in Stevenston but now lives in Uddingston, near Glasgow, works as a health and safety manager.

QWhat are your first memories of fishing and were you grabbed by it straight away?

BB: As a young kid, perhaps eight years old, I was taken out on a boat from Ardrossan harbour. I don't think I did any fishing, but was amazed by the cod that they were bringing into the boat. I really started fishing when I was about 11 years old. I went with some school mates and started with my six-foot spinning rod from Woolworth's. I remember my first fish was a six-inch codling from Stevenston Point; I was chuffed to bits.

I fished through my early teens until I was about 18 when I started boxing, which took up much of my time for the next decade, although I still did a fair bit of fishing.

QHow and when did you start match fishing and what have been your biggest successes?

BB: I have always had a competitive edge, but really got into match fishing when I joined my first fishing club, the Saltcoats Sea Hawks. I learned a lot from the people in the club, guys like Mike Nelson and Kenny Jackson who were regulars on the match scene at the time.

Back in 2003 when I was living in Cumbria and having a bit of success on the local match scene, one of my friends, Isaac Muir, encouraged me to apply for the Scottish team fish-offs. I qualified at

BELOW:
Billy winning the Yuki Masters in Barcelona



He is now manager of the Scotland Youth team

the first attempt and have never looked back, having represented Scotland's shore team at world and home nations level on about 17 occasions.

I've also won some big open matches including some abroad. My biggest success was winning the Yuki Masters in Barcelona a few years ago, when competing against some of Europe's best anglers in their own backyard.

I have been the Scottish Youth team's manager for the last three years, getting a gold and two silvers at the last three Home Nations Championships.

QHow does the Scottish shore team compare to other countries and how do you see the team evolving?

BB: The Scottish shore team has been starved of success since the late 1990s when it last won a World Championship medal (gold in 1998 in Denmark). In the time I've been fishing, the best position was fifth.

Fishing has moved on and other teams are very good and have better funding. Scotland has no funding and the anglers pay their own expenses, which sometimes costs in excess of £2,000. We must do it for the love of the sport. For Scotland to succeed we better funding to encourage anglers who may struggle with the costs to commit to the competitions. This would ensure we have the best team every time.

Anglers coming through in the teams should be encouraged to try techniques used by Continental anglers. If they build their confidence in these, then it won't be such a learning curve when fishing on foreign beaches for species they are not used to catching.

QHow have things changed in angling in the UK and what are the challenges?

BB: To be honest it seems there are fewer youngsters and adults taking up fishing. As the years have passed, I think the fishing has declined too. Long gone are the days when I could go to my local beach at Stevenston and catch 20 or more decent-sized flounders or cod in the middle of the summer. I guess this is possibly one of the reasons why we have fewer people fishing.

In some areas of the UK there is a bit of a resurgence for certain species, but only time will tell if this encourages more people to fish. The decline in youngsters coming through could mean less development in UK angling.

Conservation should be one of our priorities too. I am in favour of catch, measure and return matches because I believe we must retain the resources we have, especially given the pressure fish stocks are under from commercial fishing.

QWhat's your favourite places to fish and why?

BB: I enjoy fishing in the south west of Scotland because there are so many species and good size fish too. You never know what you are going to catch. I've also had pleasure of fishing the legendary Chesil Beach in Dorset, which on its day can be fantastic.

Abroad, I would say South Africa. I have fished there twice at the World Championships and loved it. The species, size and number of fish are amazing,

QHow did you get involved with Tronixpro and what are they like as a company to represent as a pro-staffer?

BB: I joined Tronixpro following an evening's drinking with the owner George Cunningham. I'd been having a good level of success on the match circuit and George asked if I'd be interested in joining the team. He has been very supportive and values the honest opinions of the guys he has as pro-staff. He takes on board what we advise him.

QWhat are the crucial things that a new angler should concentrate on?

BB: Bait quality and its presentation, and learning how to understand the beaches, target species and techniques for the conditions are all crucial. Always keep going right to the end of a match because things can change in a couple of casts. Never be afraid to try something different if things aren't working. Never forget a sharp filleting knife to help with better bait presentation.



Billy with a tope caught from the shore

QWhat's the funniest thing you've witnessed during your fishing career?

BB: In 2012 at the World Championships in Holland, we were staying two to a room and myself and Iain Graham were next to Davy Dobbie and Lindsay Wilson. Iain wondered if the remote controls for the televisions were the same for each room, so he tested it out from the balcony and switched off the TV in their room.

For the next two weeks, to amuse ourselves, we spent time changing their channels, turning the volume up and down, switching their TV on in the middle of the night, and turning it off when they were watching it. We confessed at the closing ceremony. In fact, Lindsay had complained to the hotel management numerous times and even had them change the TV and remote in their room. ■



Species variety is high on the list when it comes to favourite fishing marks



SEA LEAGUE

The latest results from Britain's biggest event for shore match anglers

PENN PLUS

Holt SAC Rocket House open Salthouse, Norfolk, 39 anglers

Seven of the top 10 places went to anglers in zone B with venue regular Mike Watts, of Ely, catching 24 fish for 524 points at peg 38. His catch included a 43cm bass, the event's heaviest roundfish, and 23 dabs.

Second was Neil Cutler, from Gateshead, with 22 dabs and a pouting for 493 points from peg 37, followed by George Smith, of Grimsby, with 22 fish (17 dabs, four bass and a whiting) for 463 points at peg 33.

It was a competitive match with 415 fish recorded from the two zones, with some anglers struggling to find numbers of fish.

Top angler from zone A was Nathan Elliott, from Dover, with 22 fish (19 dabs, a bass, flounder and whiting) for 448 points at peg 8.

■ **Result:** 1 Mike Watts, Ely, 24 fish, 524pts, including longest fish, 43cm bass (10pts); 2 Neil Cutler, Gateshead, 23, 493 (9); 3 George Smith, Grimsby, 22, 463 (8); 4 Bev Self, Great Yarmouth, 21, 450 (7); 5 Nathan Elliott, Dover, 22, 448 (6); 6 Steve Potts, Gosforth, 21, 435 (5); 7 Mark Rogers, Maidstone, 19, 389 (4); 8 Nelu Serban, London, 16, 367 (3); 9 Chris Spall, Saxmundham, 16, 337 (2); 10 Sam Cooper, Leiston, 16, 334 (1).

DEAL OPEN

Deal groynes, Kent, 24 anglers

Originally planned for Herne Bay, this match was switched to Deal, where Mick Tapsell, of Folkestone, made the most of peg one to catch 13 dogfish and pouting to win the match with 524 points. Second was Louie Smith, of Deal, with 11 fish (dogfish, whiting and pouting) for 500 points, with England international Saul Page, of Deal, finishing third with eight dogfish for 480 points.

■ **Result:** 1 Mick Tapsell, Folkestone, 13 fish, 524pts (2pts); 2 Louie Smith, Deal, 11, 500 (1); 3 Saul Page, Deal, 8, 480.

EAST ANGLIAN TEAMS OF FIVE OPEN

Kelling, Norfolk, 72 anglers

Anglers in zone 5 took the top three places with some impressive weights, consisting of smoothhounds, bass, dabs and whiting.

Winner was Simon Drayton, fishing for Anyfish Asso, with 38 fish, including a 190cm smoothhound, for a total of 1672 points (34-13-10) at peg 70, followed by Paul Harrison, Young Guns, with 23 fish for 1354pts (28-3-5) at peg 63. Third went to Lee Adams, Italcanna, with 47 fish and 1344 points (28-0-0) from peg 71, which edged out teammate and zone 1 winner, Lee Caley, Italcanna, with 23 fish and 1302 points (27-2-0) at peg 13.

■ **Result:** 1 Simon Drayton, Anyfish Asso, 38, 1672, 34-13-10 (7pts); 2 Paul Harrison, Young Guns, 23, 1354, 28-3-5 (6); 3 Lee Adams, Italcanna, 47, 1344, 28-0, peg 71 (5). Zones – Lee Caley, Italcanna, 23 fish, 1302pts, 27-2-0, peg 13; Ian Bowell, Breakaway, 22, 942, 19-10-0 peg 22; Norman Bickers, Bennetts, 25, 862, 17-15-5 peg 30 & Dave Wright, indiv, 21, 1246, 25-15-10 peg 43 (all 2).

FLATFISH OPEN

Hythe, Kent, 34 anglers

In what proved to be tough conditions in a strong easterly wind at Marine Parade and West Parade, the winner was Jacob Gainey. The angler from Folkestone was at peg 28 on West Parade where he caught dabs and plaice for 93 points, including the event's longest fish, a 37cm plaice worth 60 points.

Second went Colin Crosby, of Hastings, who caught flounders and dabs for 86 points to win zone B. In third was Luke Mooring, of Deal, with dabs and plaice for 80 points.

A minute's applause was held in memory of England shore angler and manager Ian Golds.

■ **Result:** 1 Jacob Gainey, Folkestone, 93pts, including longest fish, 37cm plaice (3pts); 2 Colin Crosby, Hastings, 86 (2); 3 Luke Mooring, Deal, 80 (1).

NORTH NORFOLK NATIONAL SEA LEAGUE ROUND 6

Kelling, Norfolk, 25 anglers

An intense tussle on the last two pegs saw Gorleston Tackle's Bevan Self secure victory by seven points on his last cast at peg 25. He finished with 492 points (10-4-0) from 44 fish.

Second was Mike Watts, of North Norfolk Lads, on peg 24, with 485 points (10-1-11) from 45 fish. Third place went to England international Kimberley Lawn with 405 points (8-7-0) from 35 fish at peg 19.

A very close team competition saw North Norfolk Lads win the day and retain the Champions Shield over the six rounds but only one point ahead of Team Manik.

■ **Result:** 1 Bevan Self, Gorleston Tackle, 44 fish, 492pts, 10-4-0 (2pts); 2 Mike Watts, North Norfolk Lads, 45, 485, 10-1-11 (1); 3 Kimberley Lawn, Team Manik, 35, 405, 8-7-0.

REEL FUN LEAGUE ROUND 3 & OPEN

Littleton upon Severn, South Glos, 57 anglers

Small codling, flounders and silver eels made up the catches in the Reel Fun League, with Cliff Jones in zone B taking first place with 2-6-0.

Zone C winner Dave Lane was second overall with 2-0-0, including the heaviest fish, a 1lb 3oz codling. There was a tie for third

between zone A winner Marie Bain and Phil Thomas, who was second in zone C, who both had 1-15-0, but Marie edged it thanks to catching more fish.

■ **Result:** 1 Cliff Jones, Weston-super-Mare, 2-6-0 (5pts); 2 Dave Lane, Weymouth, 2-0-0 (4); 3 Marie Bain, Brixham, 1-15-0 (3).

REEL FUN LEAGUE ROUND 4 & OPEN

Littleton upon Severn, South Glos, 46 anglers

One big fish made all the difference for winner Tom Blackwell (right), who was on the golden peg and boosted his winnings to more than £400.

The angler from Bath was in zone B where he caught two fish for 10-8-0, including a 9lb 2oz thornback ray. His catch was enough to win the pairs with Ian Brice.

Second went to Adrian 'Bert' Ford, of Weston-super-Mare, who was runner-up in zone B with three fish for 4-8-0. Zone A winner was Steve Ace, of Bristol, with three fish for 3-8-0, which earned him third overall. Top in zone C was Dave Lovelock, of Salisbury, with two fish for 1-14-0.

■ **Result:** 1 Tom Blackwell, Bath, 2 fish, 10-8-0, including heaviest fish, 9-2-0 thornback ray (4pts); 2 Adrian Ford, Weston-s-M 3, 4-8-0 (3); 3 Steve Ace, Bristol, 3, 3-8-0 (2). Zone – Dave Lovelock, Salisbury, 2, 1-14-0 (1).

REEL FUN LEAGUE ROUND 5 & OPEN

Littleton upon Severn, South Glos, 45 anglers

Match winner was Tony Irwin, on peg 1 in zone A, with six fish for 3-6-8, edging out Dave Loder at peg 30 in zone B who caught nine fish for 3-6-0. Steve Ace was third with four fish for 3-1-0 at peg 19 in zone B. Winner of zone C was James Madsen with four fish for 2-11-0 at peg 32.

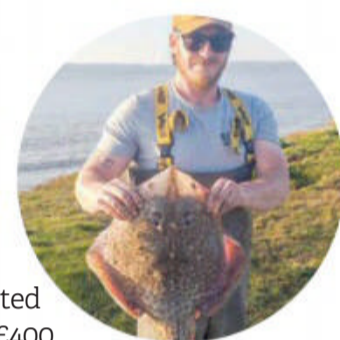
Fishing for overall victory in the last round of this league were organisers Steve Ace and James Madsen, with Steve securing the League win with 837 points from his best four results. James finished on 821 points.

■ **Result:** 1 Tony Irwin, Bristol, 6 fish, 3-6-8 (4pts); 2 Dave Loder, Newport, 9, 3-6-0 (3); 3 Steve Ace, Bristol, 4, 3-1-0 (2). Zones – James Madsen, Clevedon, 4, 2-11-0 (1); Heaviest fish – Calvin Parker, Caldicot, 1-5-0 codling (1).

REEL FUN OPEN

Littleton upon Severn, South Glos, 24 anglers

Alan Jenner and James Madsen battled it out for top spot, with the former's 1lb 14oz bass,



LEADERBOARDS

ALL RESULTS UP TO MAY 14

PREMIER DIVISION

Neil Cutler	Gateshead	9
Simon Drayton	Gainsborough	8
Nathan Elliott	Dover	8
Darren Newland	Newport	8
George Smith	Grimsby	8
Shaun Tucker	Swansea	7
Lee Adams	Shotley	5
Steve Potts	Gosforth	5
Steve Ace	Bristol	4
Dave Lane	Weymouth	4
Saul Page	Deal	4
Mark Rogers	Maidstone	4
Ben Bradstock	Honiton	3
Adrian Ford	Weston-s-M	3
Dave Loder	Newport	3
Shane Russell	Old Colwyn	3
Adrian Bordianu	Taverham	2
Jason Brown	Bridgwater	2
Colin Crosby	Hastings	2

James Madsen	Clevedon	2
Karl Nangle	Grimsby	2
Russell Preston	Bristol	2
Alan Price	Rhyl	2
Ian Reynolds	South Benfleet	2
Chris Spall	Saxmundham	2
Dave Wright	Reydon	2
Anthony Davies	Southampton	1
Luke Mooring	Deal	1
Louie Smith	Deal	1

DIVISION ONE

Mike Watts	Ely	15
Darren Phillips Arundel		10
Duncan Beck	Porstmouth	9
Bevan Self	Gt Yarmouth	9
Ian Bowell	Ipswich	7
Kevin Eley	Ipswich	6
Paul Harrison	Aldeburgh	6
Lloyd Summer	Bargoed	6
Cliff Jones	Weston-S-M	5
Simon Phelps	Cardiff	5
Robert Austin	Walton	4

Tom Blackwell	Bath	4
Tony Irwin	Bristol	4
Marie Bain	Brixham	3
Mark Cousens	Bearsted	3
Jacob Culver	Bridport	3
Jacob Gainey	Folkestone	3
Terry Hartnell	Seaton	3
Nelu Serban	London	3
Mike Topping	Loddon	3
Nick Weston	Portsmouth	3
Norman Bickers	Ipswich	2
Lee Caley	Woodbridge	2
Adrian Cooper	Grimsby	2
Mark Cowell	Llantwit Major	2
Alan Jenner	-	2
Mick Tapsell	Folkestone	2
Lewis Clark	Hockley	1
Sam Cooper	Leiston	1
Allan Hughes	Holyhead	1
James Lane	Weymouth	1
Dave Lovelock	Salisbury	1
Calvin Parker	Caldicot	1

the heaviest roundfish of the match, making all the difference. Alan caught six fish for 5-14-0 in zone A while James landed the same number for 3-15-8 in zone B. Heaviest flatfish as Roy Tapper's 1lb 4oz sole.

■ **Result:** 1 Alan Jenner, 6 fish, 5-14-0, including heaviest fish, 1-14-0 bass (2pts); 2 James Madsen, Clevedon, 6, 3-15-8 (1); 3 Neil Griffin, 3, 2-8-0.

SKUA OPEN

Colwyn Bay, Conwy, 30 anglers

Two of the leading anglers in the early years of the Penn Sea League battled it out for top spot in this night match, which produced 430 fish, consisting of whiting, dogfish, bull huss, bass and eels, for the 30 competitors.

Winner was Shane Russell with 875cm, followed by Alan Price with 769cm. Shane won the Penn Sea League in 2003 and the annual final in 2002, while Alan is a three times winner of PSL, in 1999, 2000 and 2003.

Third went to Allan Hughes with 751cm, while the biggest fish was a 91cm bull huss caught by Tony Bob.

■ **Result:** 1 Shane Russell, Old Colwyn, 875cm (3pts); 2 Alan Price, Rhyl, 769cm (2); 3 Allan Hughes, Holyhead, 751cm (1).

SOUTHERN LEAGUE ROUND 2 & OPEN

Gosport beaches, Hants, 100 anglers

A minute's silence was held prior to the start as a mark of respect to England shore team manager Ian Golds, who had died a few days earlier, so it was fitting that victory went to one of his closest friends, Darren Phillips (above).

An undulate ray of 10lb 8oz, the event's heaviest fish, in his total catch of 10-11-8



put Darren well ahead in what proved a tough match on the beaches of Stokes Bay, Browndown and Lee on Solent. The angler from Sussex was at peg 10 in zone A.

Second-placed Duncan Beck, at peg 91 in zone D, finished on 5-3-0, followed by Darren Newland, Isle of Wight, with 5-2-0 at peg 76.

Zone B went to Nick Weston with 4-15-0 at peg 32 and zone C to Terry Hartnell, who finished with 3-11-0 at peg 55.

■ **Result:** 1 Darren Phillips, Arundel, 10-11-8, including heaviest fish, 10-8-0 undulate ray (10pts); 2 Duncan Beck, Portsmouth, 5-3-0 (9); 3 Darren Newland, Newport, 5-2-0 (8). Zones – Nick Weston, Portsmouth, 4-15-0 & Terry Hartnell, Seaton, 3-11-0 (both 3).

WELSH FSA EAST REGION SHORE LEAGUE ROUND 1 & OPEN

St Donats, Marcross & Monknash, Vale of Glamorgan, 75 anglers

Thirteen teams took part in this first round match of the East Region Shore League, with the anglers spread over three beaches.

Ten fish for 11.8kg secured victory for Shaun Tucker, of Channel Anglers, whose catch consisted of seven dogfish, two smoothhounds and a conger eel. Lloyd Summer, of Tata Rangers, was second with 9.14kg (three dogfish, two hounds and a rockling). Third went to Simon Phelps, of South Wales Sea Anglers, who caught five dogfish and a smoothhound for 6.92kg at Monknash. Mark Cowell, of Llantwit Major, caught the heaviest fish, a 5.66kg small-eyed ray, at Monknash. There were no zones.

In line with Covid-19 rules in Wales the registration took place in three car parks with a maximum of 30 people at each.

■ **Result:** 1 Shaun Tucker, Channel Anglers, 10 fish, 11.8kg (7pts); 2 Lloyd Summer, Tata Rangers, 8, 9.14kg (6); 3 Simon Phelps, South Wales SA, 5, 7.24kg (5). Heaviest fish – Mark Cowell, Llantwit Major, 5.66kg small-eyed ray (2).

WEST NORFOLK CHALLENGE ROUND 1

King's Lynn, Norfolk, 16 anglers

Simon Drayton won this tough match with three fish for 2-2-10.

■ **Result:** 1 Simon Drayton, Gainsborough, 3 fish, 2-3-10 (1pt); 2 Billy Temple, Blakeney, 3, 2-2-5; 3 Henry Randell, Bodham, 3, 1-11-10.

HOW IT WORKS

■ With £10,000 in tackle prizes spread over the two divisions, points, based on entries, are awarded to the top three, section winners and captors of the largest fish caught in each designated Penn match.

Penn also awards a prize of a Spinfisher fixed-spool reel to the angler scoring the most points in matches shown in each issue.

If there is a tie, the winner will be the angler whose total is from the greatest number of results and is then chosen on merit by the editor. An angler can win only one reel during the year.

To win a prize you must be registered with the Penn Sea League – supply your name, address, phone and email.

Send fixtures, results and league registration by email to: sa.ed@kelsey.co.uk



MONTHLY WINNER

■ Monthly winner 597: Mike Watts, Ely, 11pts.

WHAT'S ON

Your at-a-glance
match events
planner

● = Penn Sea League

Please note that some fixtures may be postponed or changed due to Covid-19 regulations in various parts of the UK.

MAY

● **29:** Chesil League round 1 & open, Abbotsbury, 6pm-11pm, best six matches from eight, booking essential, Dave Lane 07977 132951.

JUNE

● **5:** Southern League round 4 of 12 & open, Hayling Island, 7pm-midnight, pegged, measure & return, undersize fish count as 10z, £15 match entry, £5 pools, £10 pair, team of five free, 2021 League entry £25, booking ends one hour before start, Darren 07919 073232, Mike 07983 579596, Ian 07736 004714 or Ant 07775 91916.

● **5:** East Anglian Teams of Five open, Dirty Wall, Aldeburgh, Rob Tuck 07855 848967.

● **6:** Welsh FSA East Region Shore League round 2 & open, Ogmere and Porthcawl, Steve Chadwick 07777 689289.

● **6:** Dyfed Match Anglers open, Pendine, match times will be advised on Facebook page, pegged, measure and release, 15cm minimum size, longest bag, Ben Edwards 07854 272739.

● **6:** Holt SAC West Norfolk Challenge round 2, King's Lynn, Mike 07858 758669 or Tony 07780 793141 or email: thomasamt@btinternet.com

● **12:** Southern League round 5 & open, Cogden 6.30pm-11.30pm, pegged, measure & return, undersize fish count as 10z, £15 match entry, £5 pools, £10 pair, team of five free, 2021 League entry £25, booking ends one hour before start, Darren 07919 073232, Mike 07983 579596, Ian 07736 004714 or Ant 07775 691916.

● **12:** Lincs open, Sandilands, 4pm-9pm, 40 pegs only, two zones, length to weight conversion, meet 2pm-3pm at Sandilands golf course, £15 all-in, optional £5 bass pool, Mark 07500 112515.

● **19-20:** Scottish FSA two-day open, Riverside Drive, Dundee.

● **19-20:** The Wig'ed Weekend, in aid of Beatson Cancer Charity, any UK shore location, 00.01am Sat to 11.59pm Sun, entrants must submit video evidence of best two specimens (rated against Angling Trust specimen table for area fish are caught), link will be provided, £10 entry, entrants are encouraged to wear wigs, 1st prize is custom-made 'golden rod' on Century blank, Ross McKay, rossco99@hotmail.co.uk

● **20:** Welsh FSA East Region open, Cardiff Foreshore, Steve Chadwick 07777 689289.

● **20:** Reel Fun open, Burnham, 11.30am-3.30pm, pegged, £15 entry in advance only, Steve at Reel Fun 01275 848652.

● **20:** Holt SAC West Norfolk Challenge round 3, King's Lynn, see round 2, June 6.

● **20:** North West ASAC open, Rock Channel, New Brighton, noon-4pm, draw 10.30am-11am near clown sculpture on King's Parade (CH45 2PB), booking essential, 07572 593272 or 0151 677 0011.

● **26:** Chesil League round 2 & open, Chesil Centre, 5pm-10pm, booking essential, Dave Lane 07977 132951.

● **26:** Jimmy Smith (All Ireland) open, Wexford beaches, hosted by South Shore SAC, Paul Whelan 00353 (0)851425728.

● **27:** Newport & District SAC open, St Brides, Tony Hart 07530 983667.

● **27:** Filey Brigg AS Foords open, 11am-4pm, heaviest single fish, weigh in by 5pm at Foords Hotel, Queen St, Filey, Adrian Colling 07837 932935..

Fixtures should be submitted by the organiser and must include full details and contact telephone number. Emails will be acknowledged. Email events at least eight weeks in advance of the fixture to sa.ed@kelsey.co.uk

PENN PLUS MATCH

June 5-6: Tyne two-day summer open, River Tyne, 9am-1pm Sat, 10am-2pm Sun, 20cm minimum size limit, pay in advance only, Neil 07814 601879 or Gav 07956 180689.

LONDON BRIDGE *

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MAY

27	THU	02.54	7.36	15.21	7.11
28	FRI	03.41	7.44	16.07	7.04
29	SAT	04.28	7.41	16.53	6.88
30	SUN	05.16	7.23	17.38	6.64
31	MON	06.06	6.94	18.24	6.35

JUNE

1	TUE	06.58	6.61	19.13	6.09
2	WED	07.56	6.33	20.12	5.90
3	THU	08.58	6.15	21.21	5.82
4	FRI	10.02	6.09	22.30	5.88
5	SAT	11.07	6.13	23.34	6.04
6	SUN	** **	****	12.10	6.24
7	MON	00.31	6.25	13.03	6.37
8	TUE	01.18	6.46	13.45	6.48
9	WED	01.59	6.64	14.21	6.58
10	THU	02.36	6.77	14.55	6.65
11	FRI	03.12	6.83	16.03	6.64
12	SAT	03.48	6.83	16.03	6.64
13	SUN	04.23	6.78	16.39	6.55
14	MON	04.59	6.71	17.15	6.43
15	TUE	05.37	6.62	21.24	6.03
16	WED	06.18	6.51	18.31	6.18
17	THU	07.05	6.39	19.18	6.08
18	FRI	07.59	6.27	20.13	6.01
19	SAT	09.05	6.22	21.24	6.03
20	SUN	10.15	6.30	22.42	6.23
21	MON	11.21	6.46	23.48	6.51
22	TUE	** **	****	12/23	6.62
23	WED	00.48	6.78	13.22	6.76
24	THU	01.45	7.01	14.16	6.85
25	FRI	02.37	7.17	15.07	6.90
26	SAT	03.29	7.27	15.56	6.90
27	SUN	04.19	7.28	16.43	6.85

TIDES FROM MAY TO JULY

28	MON	05.09	7.18	17.28	6.71
29	TUE	05.57	6.96	18.12	6.52
30	WED	06.45	6.69	18.54	6.32
JULY					
1	THU	07.33	6.41	19.41	6.14
2	FRI	08.23	6.18	20.34	5.99
3	SAT	09.16	6.01	21.36	5.89
4	SUN	10.12	5.91	22.37	5.89
5	MON	11.10	5.91	23.38	5.99
6	TUE	** **	****	12.11	6.02
7	WED	00.36	6.19	13.06	6.22
8	THU	01.27	6.42	13.52	6.42
9	FRI	02.12	6.59	14.34	6.55
10	SAT	02.53	6.70	15.14	6.63
11	SUN	03.32	6.77	15.52	6.66
12	MON	04.10	6.83	16.30	6.67
13	TUE	04.48	6.87	17.06	6.65
14	WED	05.27	6.86	17.43	6.58
15	THU	06.07	6.76	18.21	6.49
16	FRI	06.50	6.60	19.00	6.40
17	SAT	07.37	6.41	19.48	6.31
18	SUN	08.33	6.24	20.46	6.23
19	MON	09.41	6.15	22.03	6.22
20	TUE	10.51	6.17	23.18	6.34
21	WED	** **	****	12.00	6.26
22	THU	00.27	6.54	13.06	6.43
23	FRI	01.31	6.76	14.06	6.61
24	SAT	02.30	6.97	15.00	6.76
25	SUN	03.23	7.13	15.48	6.86
26	MON	04.12	7.21	16.33	6.91
27	TUE	04.57	7.18	17.14	6.88
28	WED	05.40	7.02	17.51	6.76
29	THU	06.21	6.76	18.27	6.59
30	FRI	06.58	6.46	19.01	6.39
31	SAT	07.36	6.18	19.40	6.18

* TIDAL VARIATIONS FROM LONDON

Wick	-2.29	Fishguard	+5.44
Lossiemouth	-2.00	Aberystwyth	-6.11
Aberdeen	-0.18	Barmouth	-5.45
Stonehaven	-0.08	Holyhead	-3.28
Cockenzie	+0.47	Menai Bridge	-3.08
Berwick	+0.54	Colwyn Bay	-2.47
Blyth	+1.46	Southport	-2.55
North Shields	+1.47	Blackpool	-2.50
Hartlepool	+1.59	Morecambe	-2.33
Whitby	+2.20	Barrow (Ramsden)	-2.28
Scarborough	+2.30	Whitehaven	-2.30
Filey Bay	+2.45	Kirkcudbright Bay	-2.25
Bridlington	+2.58	Girvan	-1.51
Skegness	+4.29	Ayr	-1.44
Hunstanton	+4.44	Lamlash	-1.45
Cromer	+4.56	Greenock	-1.19
Lowestoft	-4.23	Oban	+4.12
Aldeburgh	-2.53	Gairloch	+5.16
Felixstowe pier	-2.23	Ullapool	+5.36
Clacton	-2.00	Belfast	-2.47
Southend-on-Sea	-1.22	Douglas	-2.44
Herne Bay	-1.24	IRELAND	
Margate	-1.52	Dun Laoghaire	-2.09
Deal	-2.38	Arklow	-4.41
Dover	-2.53	Rosslare harbour	+4.39
Dungeness	-3.05	Baginbun Head	+3.53
Eastbourne	-2.48	Ballycotton	+3.45
Newhaven	-2.47	Courtmacsherry	+3.32
Brighton	-2.51	Baltimore	+3.35
Worthing	-2.36	Bantry	+3.15
Portsmouth	-2.29	Fenit pier	+3.13
Ryde	-2.29	Kilrush	+4.02
Southampton *	-2.53	Galway	+3.36
Poole (Entrance) *	-5.09	Clifden Bay	+3.41
Bournemouth *	-5.09	Westport Bay	+3.57
Swanage *	-5.19	Sligo harbour	+4.25
Portland	+4.57	Killybegs	+4.21
Torquay	+4.40	Rathmullan	+4.43
Dartmouth	+4.25	NORTHERN IRELAND	
Plymouth	+4.05	Belfast	-2.47
Fowey	+3.53	Portrush	+5.48
Falmouth	+3.30	Red Bay	-2.41
Newquay	+3.32	Carrickfergus	-2.42
Padstow	+3.45		
Barnstaple	+4.30		
Weston-super-Mare	+5.05		
Cardiff (Penarth)	+5.15		
Barry	+5.08		
Swansea	+4.42		
Milford Haven	+4.37		



WHY CATCH AND RELEASE MATTERS

The thought of immunising a released fish against future capture may be a pipe dream, but returning bass really matters, argues Matt Spence

WHEN LURE FISHING FOR BASS on my favourite offshore reef I often encounter commercial fishermen who are also casting plugs. All the fish I catch are put back, but all theirs thrown into fish boxes.

If they see me return a good bass over the side of my small boat they invariably shake their heads in disbelief. To them I am throwing banknotes over the side, but to me I'm maintaining a resource for the potential delight of anglers in future.

The sight of a sizable bass ghosting into the inky depths when released brings me pleasure – and not only for the look of incomprehension on the face of the watching commercial fisherman. The satisfaction I gain comes largely from a belief that my actions are, in some immeasurable way, helping to conserve bass stocks and preserving my sport for years to come.

PROTECTION

It's possible my wife's claim that I spend too much time thinking about fishing might have some truth, but I have concluded that by releasing a bass it results in more than just that fish swimming in the sea rather than cooking oil.

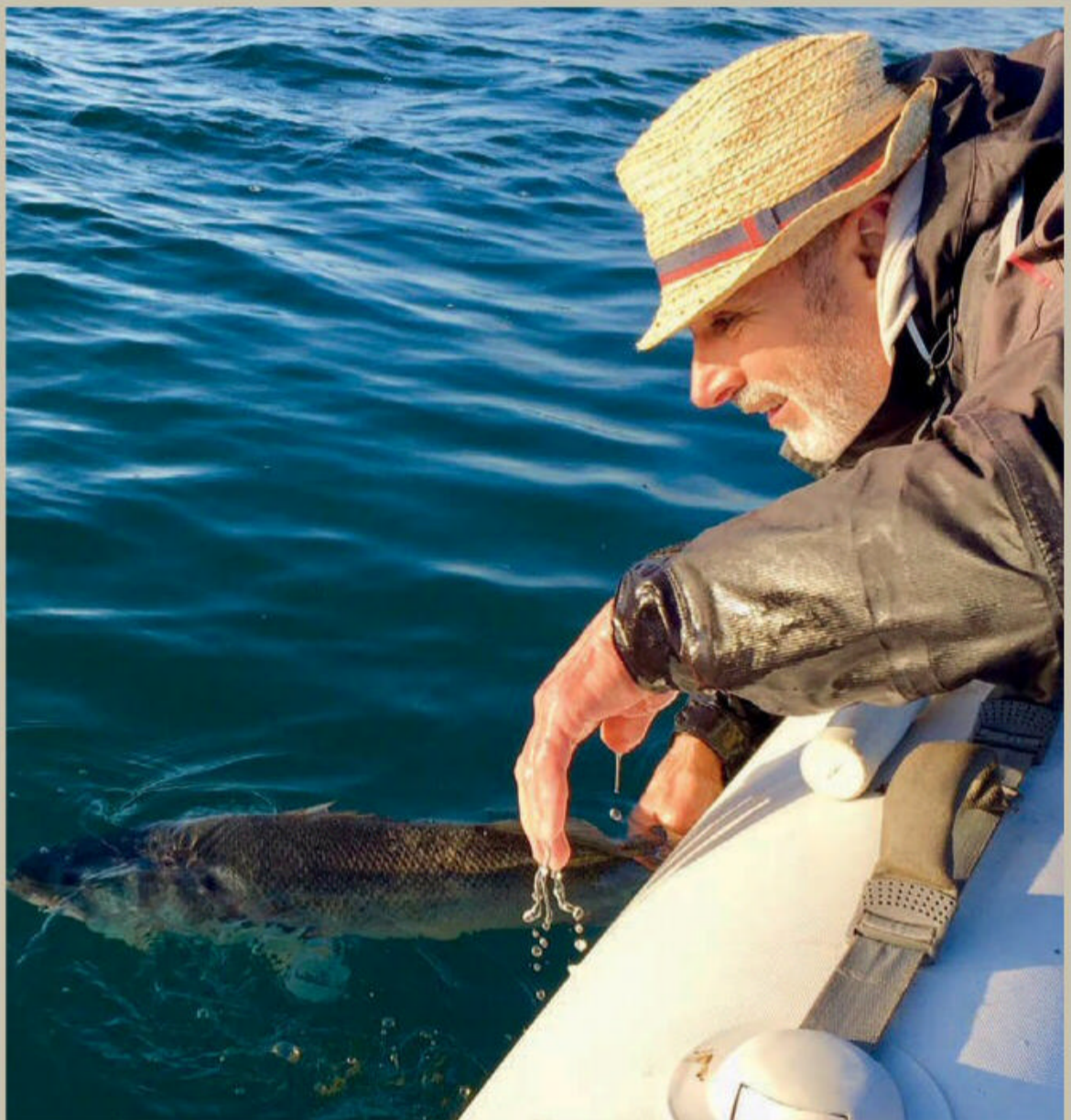
Firstly, at a basic level, large bass that can be deceived on lures are those I want to fish for, so logically these are the ones I most want to keep alive. Releasing such fish also means that when they breed they will pass on genes that produce big foolish bass.

There is, however, another notion that I have to support returning fish I have landed, which suggests my actions might, to some degree, protect these bass against getting caught and eaten in the future. My idea comes from observations of fisheries where fish are usually returned. For example, think about those trout reservoirs that open up to pike angling with lures. After a few great weeks the pike start to become more difficult to deceive on plugs, spinners and soft plastics. Coarse fish also become increasingly suspicious of certain baits, the more and the longer they are exposed to them.

For anglers to keep ahead of the fish and improve their chances of success, they need to develop their methods and find new baits or different ways of presenting them.

OBSERVATIONS

Surprisingly it is not only the captured fish that wise up. Laboratory studies have



shown that sticklebacks are capable of modifying their behaviour after seeing their fellow shoal members affected in some way.

From my own fishing observations when casting at visible bass, I have frequently caught one or two and have then seen the other fish in the shoal become seemingly suspicious of my lure. I have only caught again after changing my lure or the way I work it.

As with many creatures, some fish appear to be smarter than others and, of course, there will be others incapable of modifying their behaviour that get repeatedly caught. Assuming that some of the bass I catch will, to some extent, behave differently after getting hooked, I believe that by practicing catch and release, then, to an unknown extent, I might have conditioned them to be more wary. In turn, this will reduce the chances of them getting caught and eaten in the future.

Clearly this theory implies I have to stay ahead of the bass as they wise up. But given that I need little encouragement to spend my

time devising new plans to fool the bass, or my cash on more lures, this hardly counts as a problem.

I don't treat these ideas with complete seriousness, or claim they can significantly restore the UK's bass stocks. For a start, catch and release does nothing to immunise the fish against getting netted, yet I still believe much of the logic here is hard to argue against. So, if like many others you take a maximum of two fish a day (when regulations allow), then the next time you release your quarry, you can gain further pleasure from your actions because you may have immunised that fish against getting caught again.

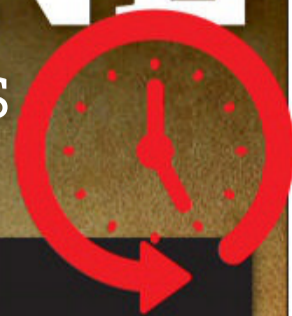
And remember, the more of us who practice catch and release, the greater the effects of our actions on conserving our bass stocks.



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TIME MACHINE

A look back through the archives of Britain's biggest and best sea angling magazine...



JUNE

2011

■ Somerset boat angler Johnny Francis, from Clevedon, caught a 35lb ling while fishing aboard the Samuel Irvine, skippered by Ian Noble, out of Dartmouth, Devon.

■ When Swansea small-boat angler Hugh Davies caught his first spurdog it tipped the scales at 16lb 10oz. He boated it on a double squid bait while fishing at anchor in Swansea Bay.

■ Dorset tackle company Fladen Fishing UK agreed to a £5,000 sponsorship deal with the England team competing in the CIPS World Boat Championships in Italy.

■ Shore angler Nathan Jubb caught a 19lb 14oz blonde ray during a session in Ladye Bay. The angler from Bristol was fishing for cod with a Pennell pulley rig baited with crab when the big ray took his bait just before high water.

■ Bluey bait on an up and over rig produced a 9lb 10oz small-eyed ray for Alex Mckay, of Llantwit Major, Vale of Glamorgan, who was fishing a shore mark at Ogmere.

2001

■ One of the biggest boat-caught cod for many years from Dover was taken only half a mile off the White Cliffs. The 38lb 8oz fish was landed by Chris McMinn, of Dartford, while fishing in Fan Bay aboard the Dover boat Macer G, skippered by Chris Cullen.

■ A Hampshire boat angler landed a blonde ray only nine ounces short of the British record. The 38lb 9oz fish fell to Ray Lavagna while fishing south of the Isle of Wight. His pal Colin Rich caught a brace of blondes weighing 34lb and 30lb during the same trip on Pete Churchill's Moonshine, out of Southsea.



■ England junior Tom Wells won the individual gold medal in the under 16 category of the World Youth Championships, held in Portugal. The England team finished second overall to clinch the silver medals.

■ Work had been completed on an angling area at the western arm of Gillingham pier in Kent, as part of a major five-year regeneration project.

■ A porbeagle shark estimated at 350lb was caught and released off Dunnet Head, Caithness. Local angler Sandy MacDonald hooked it on a whole cod while fishing from John Sinclair's boat Elana.

1991

■ Holidaymaker Sue Storey caught a record 17lb 8oz small-eyed ray on hired tackle while charter fishing out of Watchet, Somerset. Sue, from Berkshire, was on Steve Yeandle's Scooby Doo when she boated the fish on a frozen mackerel bait. She still holds the boat-caught record.

■ A 16lb thornback ray boated off White Beach, Llangoed, Anglesey, was registered as a new Welsh record. It was caught on a mackerel strip by Clifford Riley, who was fishing close to the shore.

■ The National Anglers Council had been disbanded at an extraordinary general meeting in London, with the British Record (rod-caught) Committee's work set to be administered by the National Federation of Sea Anglers. The NFSA was later replaced by the Angling Trust.

■ English angler Vic Sampson boated one of the biggest fish ever caught on rod and line anywhere in the world. The shark specialist caught an enormous white shark of 1,740lb while fishing off Australia. It was the fourth biggest game-fish ever landed under IGFA rules. The record set in 1959 stood at 2,657lb, again caught off Australia.



1981

■ Disabled angler Neil Harrod from Fleetwood, who was on one of regular trips aboard Des White's local charter boat Lenda-Handa, caught a 17lb 8oz thornback ray.

■ Shore catch of the month was a new Channel Islands' record 7lb 6oz 8dr grey mullet caught by Guernsey angler Ernest Baker while fishing the Alderney breakwater. It was caught on a float-fished cube of raw pork.

■ Essex charter skippers Bob Cox and Kevin Benham were getting together with Donovan Kelly in an all-out effort to tag up to 600 bass off the Essex coast. Ten special sessions featuring eight anglers were proposed for each boat.

■ It was reported that shark anglers fishing out from Looe caught more sharks than in both preceding years. The Shark Angling Club of Great Britain's annual report said 478 sharks were boated in 1980, 40 per cent more than in 1979. Average weight was well down with only 44 fish over the 75lb SACGB qualifying weight, compared to 60 in the previous year.

■ Specimen angler Jimmy Slater, of Bangor City SAC, caught a 29lb 11oz ling while fishing aboard Seren-y-Don, off Anglesey. The fish was 3lb 7oz short of the Welsh record.

■ Thornback rays were early making the first appearance in 1981. Fish, including some over 20lb, were caught in early April. The biggest numbers were from the Liverpool Bay and Thames Estuary areas.

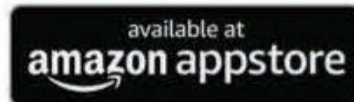
■ The demand for an ultra-sharp and extra-thin wire hook had prompted Partridge to produce its own Aberdeen pattern, while the tackle wholesalers East Anglian Rod Company had begun importing the Mustad Aberdeen Blue 3730.



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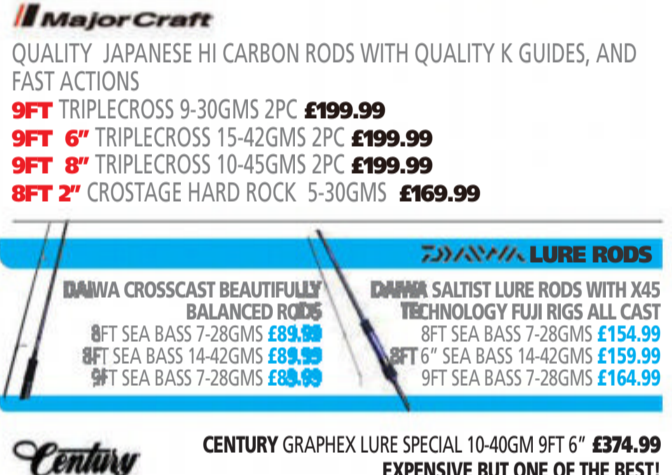
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